

"Great character work and the scale you'd expect
from a book with Earth's Mightiest Heroes." —AIP

THE AVENGERS



JDC
GURU

MacKAY
SCHITI
KARAMI
VALENZA
BLEE

STORM

MARVEL

THE AVENGERS

STORM





THE STAR
CAPTAIN MARVEL



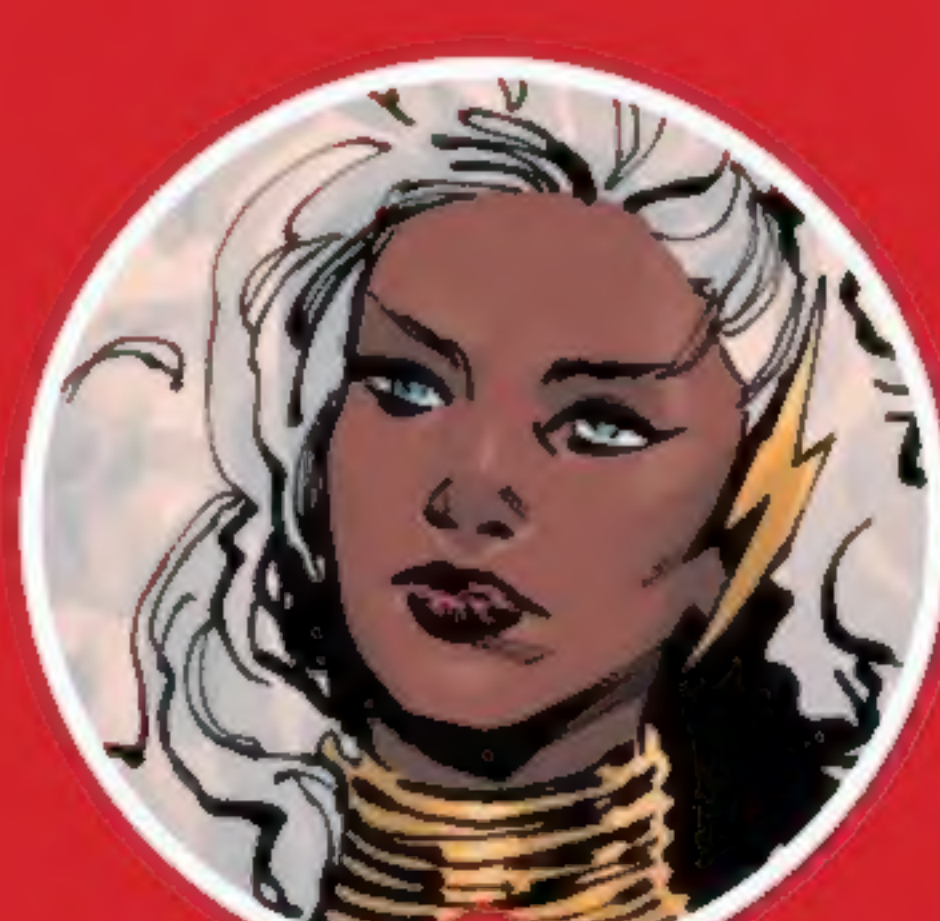
THE ICON
CAPTAIN AMERICA



THE WITCH
SCARLET WITCH



THE CONSTRUCT
THE VISION



THE GOD
STORM



THE ENGINEER
IRON MAN



THE KING
BLACK PANTHER

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AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN. TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

THE AVENGERS

THE WORLD HAS RECENTLY ENDURED DEVASTATING STRIFE ON MULTIPLE FRONTS. VAMPIRES DESCENDED UPON THE EARTH WHEN THE **DARKFORCE DIMENSION** BLOCKED OUT THE SUN, KILLING THOUSANDS OF INNOCENTS. AND A CONSPIRACY PLOT BY **ORCHIS** BROUGHT DOWN **KRAKOA**, THE FORMER MUTANT SAFE HAVEN, AND DISPLACED MUTANTS ACROSS THE GLOBE. IN THE AFTERMATH OF SUCH CHAOS, THE **AVENGERS** REGROUP TO FACE A NEW DAY...

STORM

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AVENGERS CREATED BY **STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY**



**WESTERN
RUSSIA.**
THE URAL MOUNTAINS.
TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO
THE BLOOD HUNT.



THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY.
EARTH ORBIT.
NOW.

"THERE'S SOMETHING
THAT WE NEED TO
TALK ABOUT."



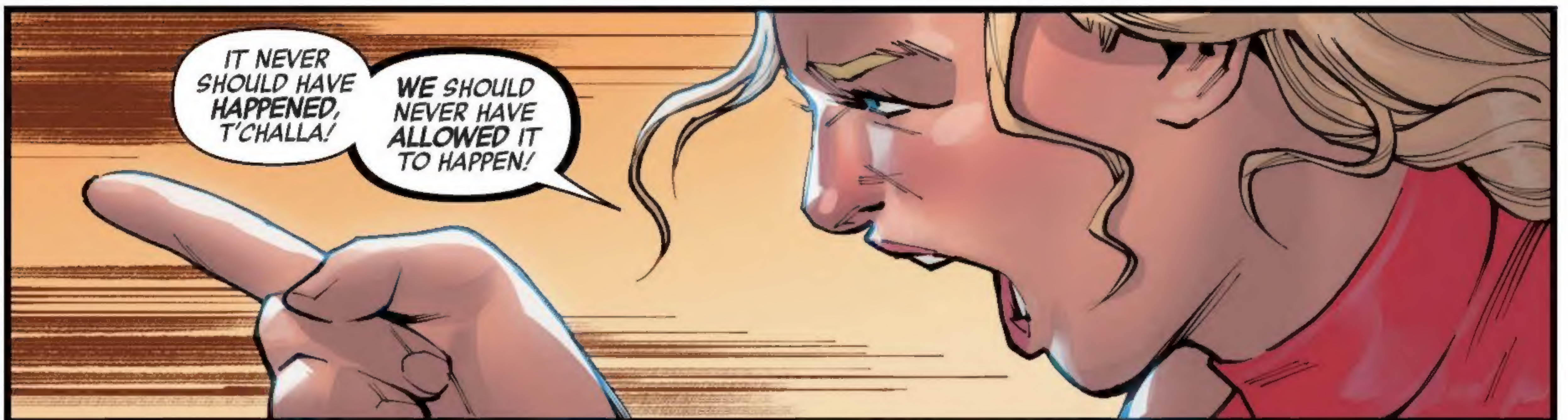


THE
SUN SHINES
AGAIN.

THE
WORLD STILL
SPINS.

HUMANITY,
AND THE *OTHER*
THINKING SPECIES WE
SHARE THE GLOBE
WITH, SURVIVES,
AND *THRIVES*.

WE
DEFEATED
VARNAE. WE
DEFEATED THE
VAMPIRES.



IT NEVER
SHOULD HAVE
HAPPENED,
T'CHALLA!

WE SHOULD
NEVER HAVE
ALLOWED IT
TO HAPPEN!



THOUSANDS
OF PEOPLE DIED.
THOUSANDS.



BILLIONS
WERE *SAVED*.

CAROL...
WE'RE TALKING
ABOUT AN
EXTINCTION-LEVEL
EVENT THAT WE
STOPPED.



WE'RE THE
AVENGERS,
WANDA.

EXTINCTION-
LEVEL EVENTS
ARE WHAT
WE DO.

TRIBULATION
EVENTS.



REMEMBER THOSE? THE **CATAclysms** KANG WARNED ABOUT? WE CONTAINED THE ASHEN COMBINE WITH A MINIMAL LOSS OF LIFE.

THAT WAS THE **FIRST** TRIBULATION EVENT. "THE FALL OF THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY."

BUT THEN THE BLOOD HUNT? KANG'S "ENDLESS NIGHT"?



WE OWE THIS WORLD A **DUTY** IF WE **DARE** CALL OURSELVES AVENGERS.

AND **THOUSANDS** DEAD INSTEAD OF **BILLIONS** IS STILL A FAILURE.

CLOSE ENOUGH IS NOT ENOUGH.



ON TOP OF THAT?

DOCTOR DOOM IS THE **SORCERER SUPREME** OF EARTH.

SPIDER-MAN, THE **KID ONE**, IS A **VAMPIRE**.

AND SPEAKING OF **VAMPIRES**, THEY CAN WALK AROUND IN THE **SUNLIGHT** NOW!



AARRGHH!!!



TAKE FIVE, EVERYONE.

I'LL TALK TO HER.



SHE'S **RIGHT**, THOUGH.

THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES.
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA.
ONE WEEK BEFORE THE BLOOD HUNT.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND--



IT'S SIMPLE.

IN TEN DAYS, YOU'RE GOING TO BRING *THIS* TO THE LOCAL NEWS.

IN RETURN FOR THIS SMALL SERVICE, YOU'LL BE PAID HANDSOMELY. IN ADVANCE.



IS THAT--?

YES.

SOLID GOLD. I DON'T KNOW ITS *PRECISE* WORTH, BUT SUFFICE TO SAY, IT'S ENOUGH.

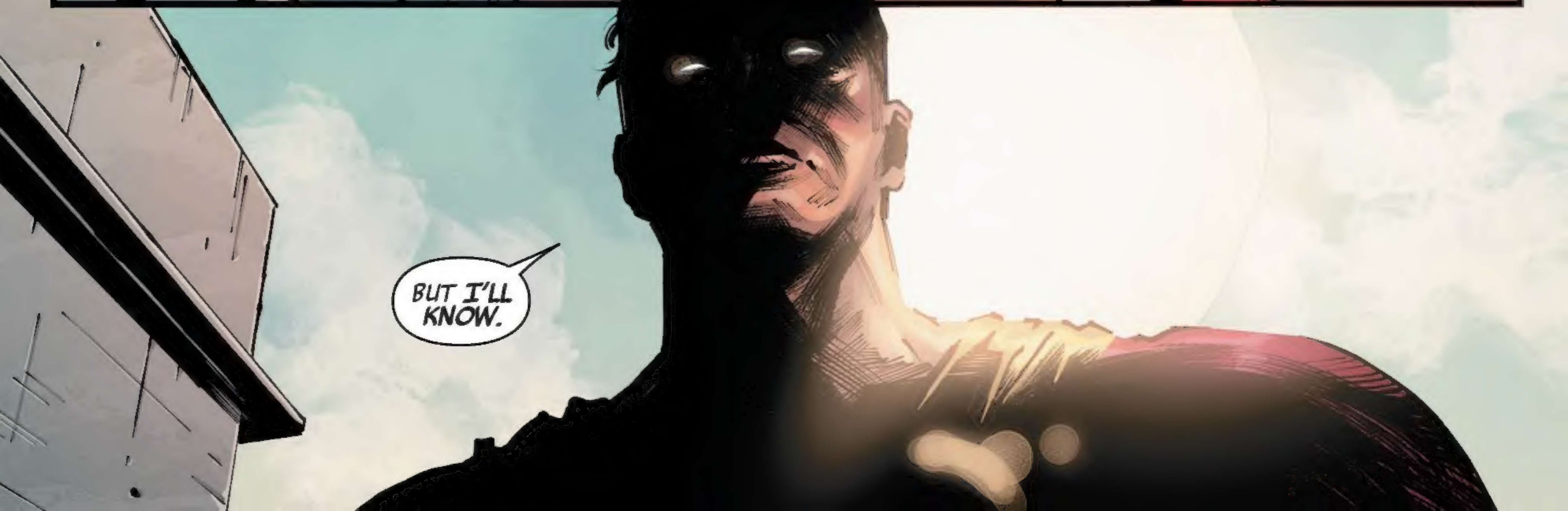
THIS AIN'T GOING TO GET ME INTO TROUBLE?



NO. BUT IT *IS* SOMETHING THAT THE PEOPLE DESERVE TO KNOW.

NOTHING, I SUPPOSE.

NOT THAT I'M *GOING* TO, YOU UNDERSTAND, BUT WHAT'S *STOPPING* ME FROM KEEPING THE GOLD AND TOSSING THE DRIVE?



BUT I'LL KNOW.

NOW.

SO.

BET YOU WANT A DRINK RIGHT NOW.

I ALWAYS WANT A DRINK. THAT'S THE PROBLEM.

DON'T I KNOW IT.

WHICH IS HOW I KNOW I'M RIGHT.

STEP FOUR: "A SEARCHING AND FEARLESS MORAL INVENTORY OF OURSELVES."

I'M ALWAYS REPEATING THAT PROCESS. THAT'S HOW I KNOW THAT I DIDN'T DO ENOUGH DURING THE BLOOD HUNT. THAT NONE OF US DID.

DON'T QUOTE THE TWELVE STEPS TO ME. I'M THE ONE WHO READ THEM TO YOU THE FIRST TIME.

AND IT'S AS YOUR SPONSOR THAT I'M ASKING YOU THIS:

IS THIS REALLY ABOUT YOUR MORAL INVENTORY?

OR ARE YOU TRADING ONE ADDICTION FOR ANOTHER?

YOU WANT TO CLARIFY THAT FOR ME, TONY?

ADDICTS KNOW ABOUT GUILT, CAROL. WE KNOW ABOUT GUILT.

BUT GUILT CAN BE AN ADDICTION TOO.

AND IT GOES DOWN EASY, BECAUSE IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE DOING RIGHT.



I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO ASK--HOW ARE YOU, CITY?

I AM FINE, T'CHALLA.

CITY... IT'S BEEN A DIFFICULT TIME FOR ALL OF US.

IT IS ALL RIGHT TO TALK ABOUT IT. YOU ARE ONE OF US. WE CARE ABOUT YOU.



...I WAS FRIGHTENED. AND HURT.

THE VAMPIRE CRUEL COMPROMISED MY SYSTEMS BADLY. BUT MORE THAN THAT...

...TO BECOME THE HOME--THE TOOL TO MONSTERS AGAIN... MY MIND COULDN'T TAKE IT. I THOUGHT I WOULD GO MAD.



MY CONSCIOUSNESS RETREATED. I BECAME A DUMB THING.

I RESPONDED ONLY TO YOUR COMMANDS, BECAUSE I KNEW YOU. EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE--

YES. I WAS COMPROMISED AS WELL. MADE AS MUCH A TOOL OF VARNÆ AS YOU WERE.

BUT YOU TRUSTED ME, AND DESPITE BEING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF VAMPIRIC HYPNOSIS, I APOLOGIZE FOR MY ACTIONS.

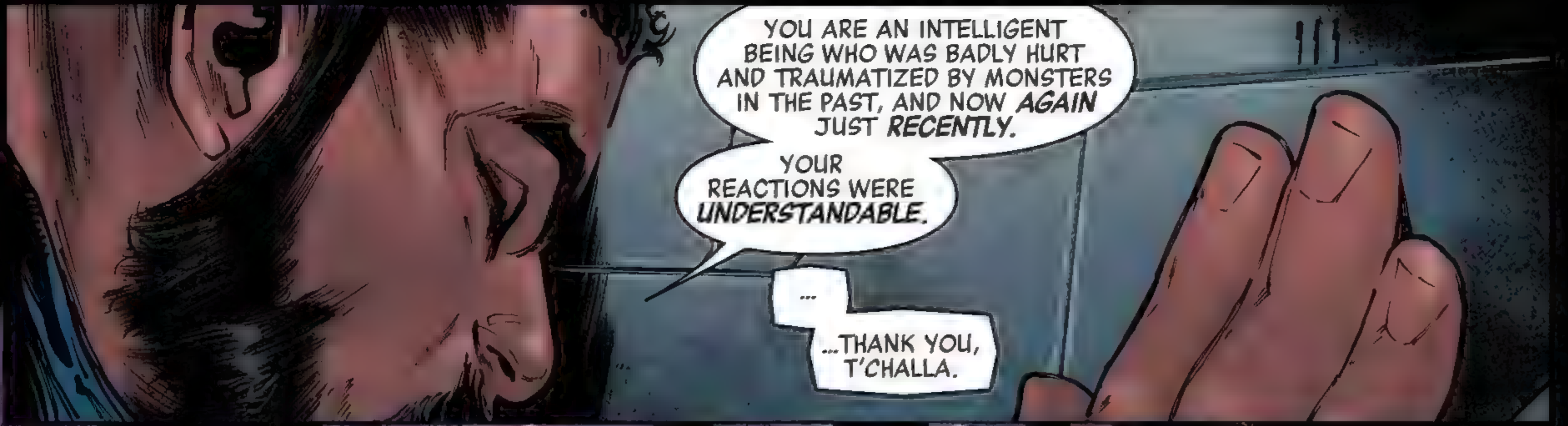


I...I THINK ABOUT HOW I COULD HAVE HELPED. SHOULD HAVE HELPED.

I COULD HAVE MOBILIZED MY PLASTOIDS, DRIVEN THEM AWAY.

BUT I WAS FRIGHTENED...

CITY...



YOU ARE AN INTELLIGENT BEING WHO WAS BADLY HURT AND TRAUMATIZED BY MONSTERS IN THE PAST, AND NOW AGAIN JUST RECENTLY.

YOUR REACTIONS WERE UNDERSTANDABLE.

...
...THANK YOU, T'CHALLA.



WE **SHOULD** PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE, HOWEVER.

AS AVENGERS, WE ARE **ALL** TARGETS. ENEMIES **WILL** COME FOR US AGAIN.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE **TWILIGHT COURT**--

YES, I WANTED TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THAT, T'CHALLA.

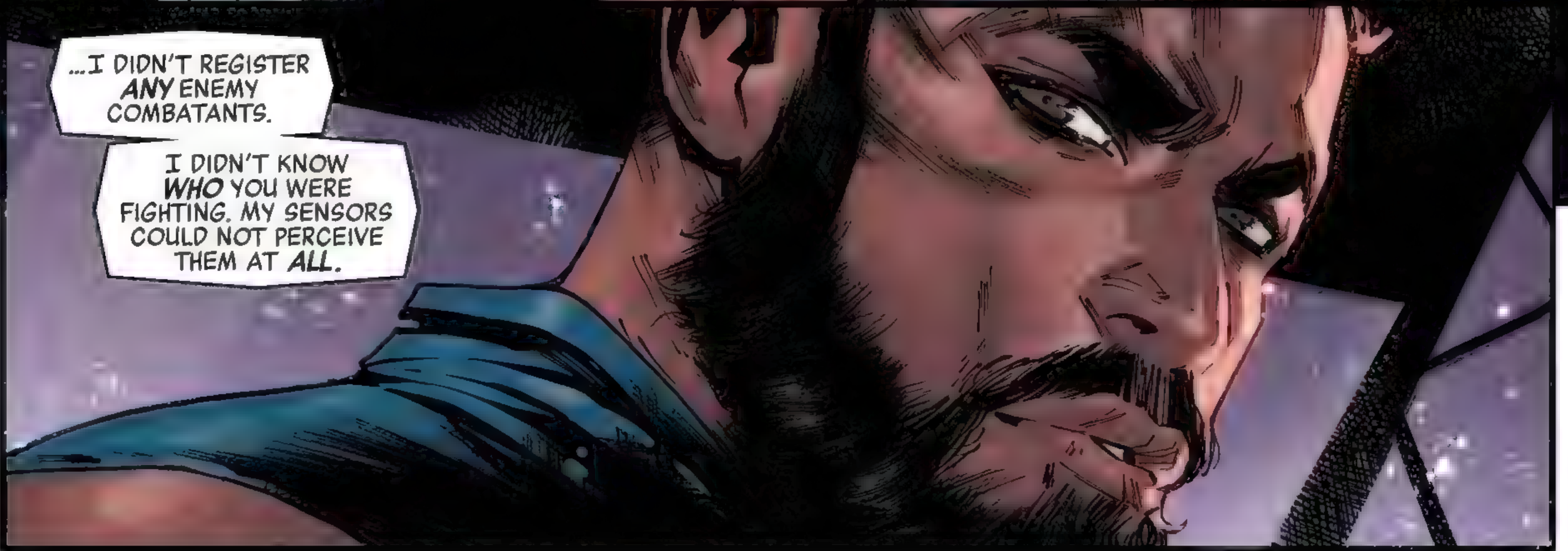
I WAS TERRIBLY **CONFUSED** WHEN THAT HAPPENED.*

CONFUSED?

YES.

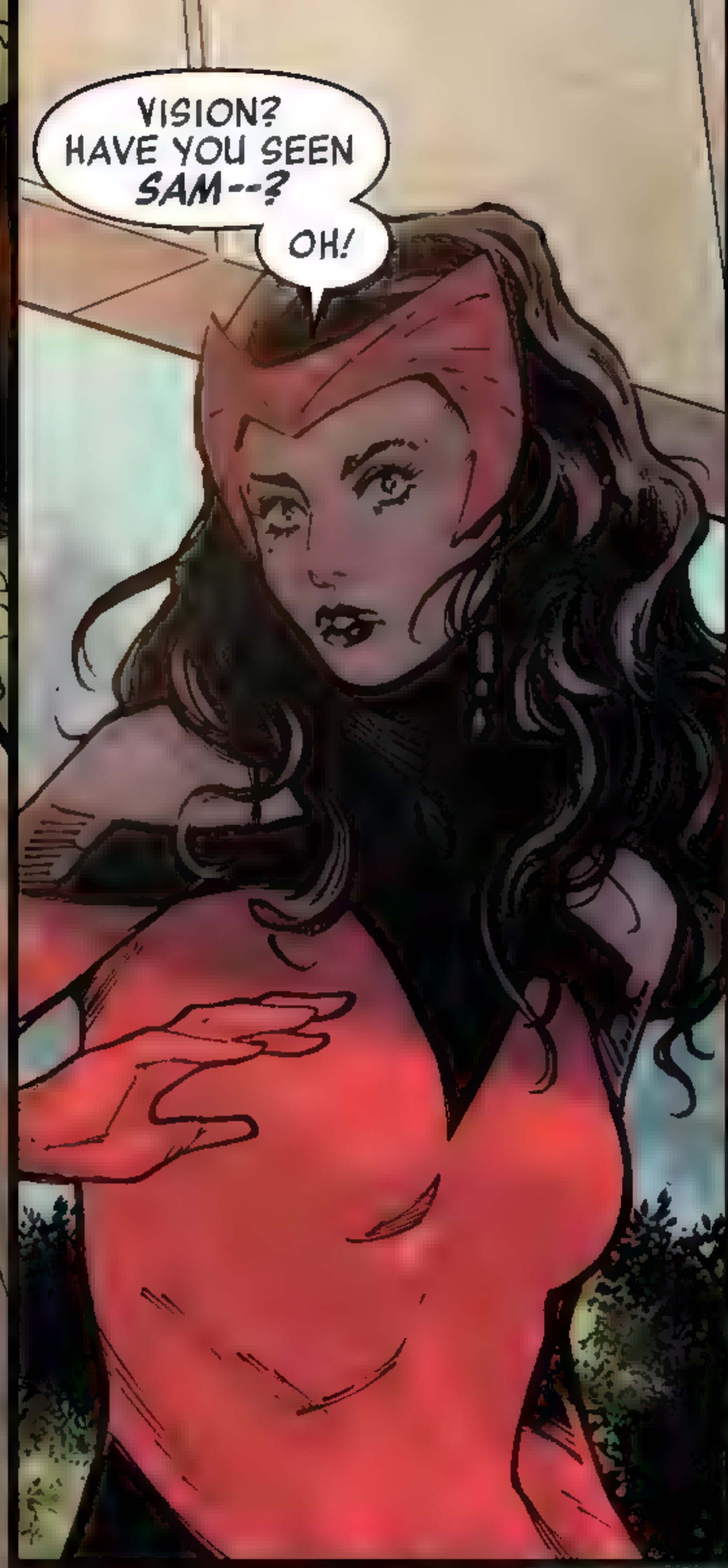
WELL, YOU SEE...

*AVENGERS #7-10.



...I DIDN'T REGISTER **ANY** ENEMY COMBATANTS.

I DIDN'T KNOW **WHO** YOU WERE FIGHTING. MY SENSORS COULD NOT PERCEIVE THEM AT ALL.



VISION?
HAVE YOU SEEN
SAM--?

OH!



HELLO,
WANDA.

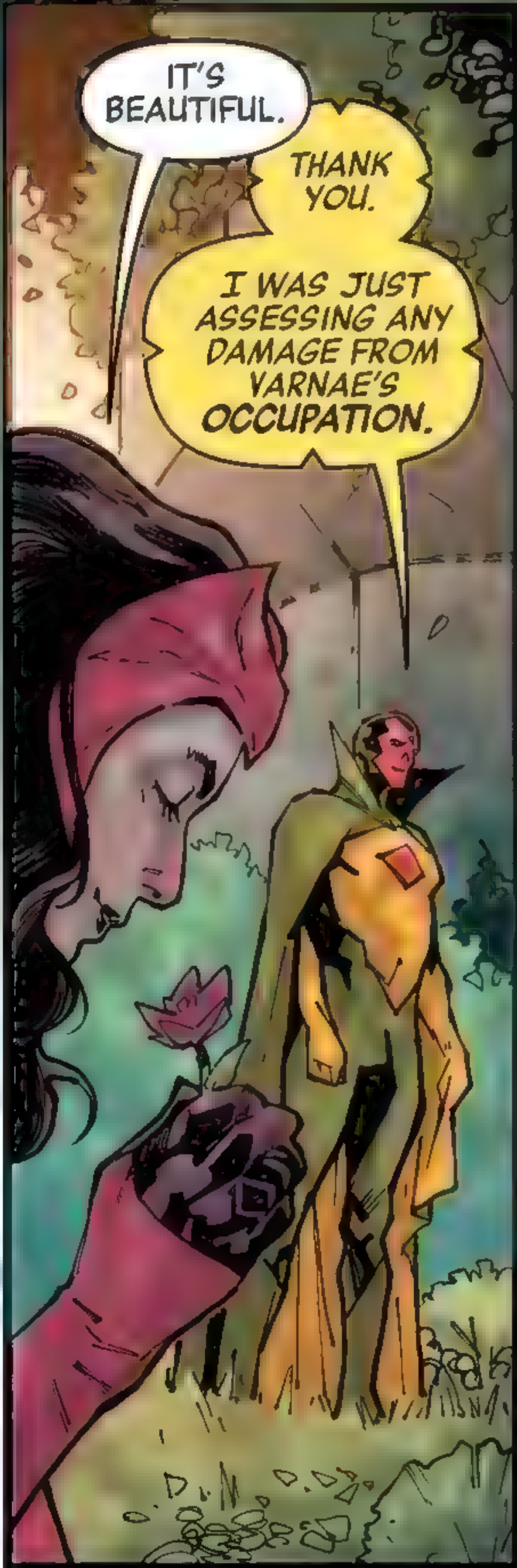
VISION!
WHAT IS
THIS?



SOMETHING THE CITY
AND I HAVE BEEN
WORKING ON.

AS SYNTHETICS,
WE ARE BOTH
FASCINATED BY ORGANIC
LIFE. AS SUCH, WE HAVE
BEGUN A GARDEN,
HERE IN ORBIT.

CREATING A
BIOME PRESENTS
PARTICULAR CHALLENGES,
OF COURSE, BUT IT HAS
BEEN EXTREMELY
GRATIFYING.



IT'S
BEAUTIFUL.

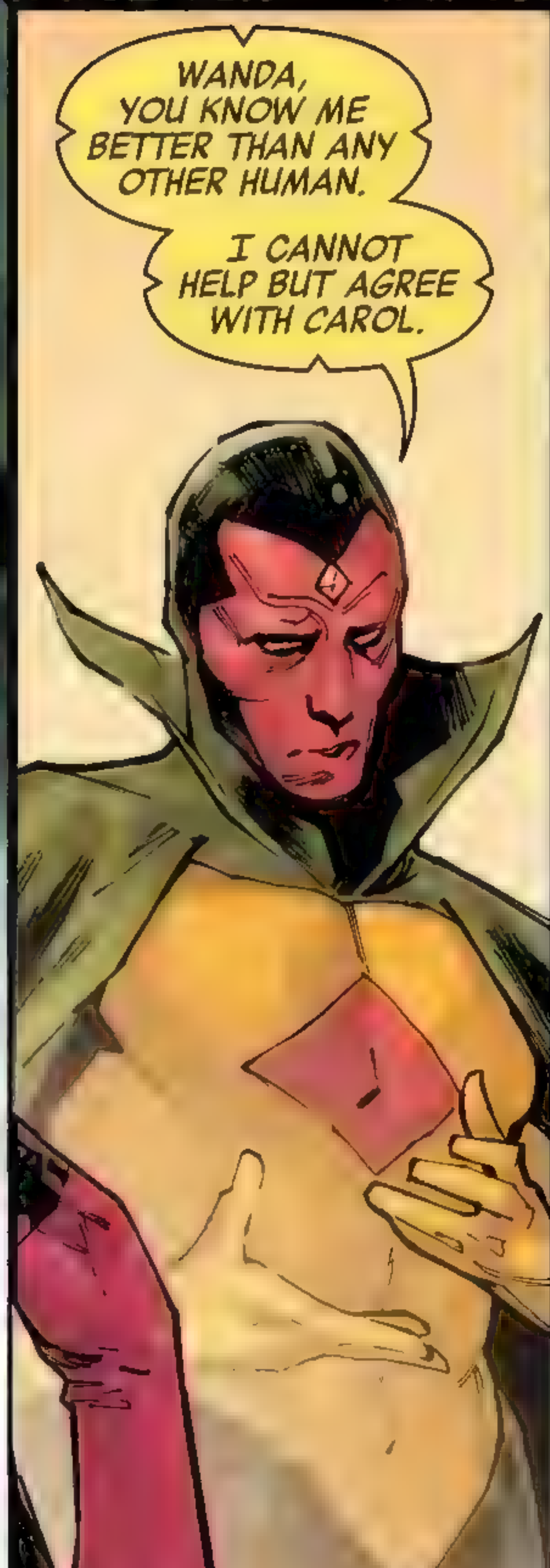
THANK
YOU.

I WAS JUST
ASSESSING ANY
DAMAGE FROM
VARNAE'S
OCCUPATION.



VISION, I VALUE YOUR
COUNSEL MORE THAN
PERHAPS ANY OTHER. WHAT
DO YOU MAKE OF CAROL'S
STATEMENT? AND SAM'S
AGREEMENT?

I GRIEVE
AT THE LOSS OF LIFE,
OF ANY LOSS OF LIFE...
BUT I DON'T SEE HOW
SELF-FLAGELLATION
HELPS THE LIVING
OR THE DEAD.



WANDA,
YOU KNOW ME
BETTER THAN ANY
OTHER HUMAN.

I CANNOT
HELP BUT AGREE
WITH CAROL.



WHY IS THAT--?

AH. YES.

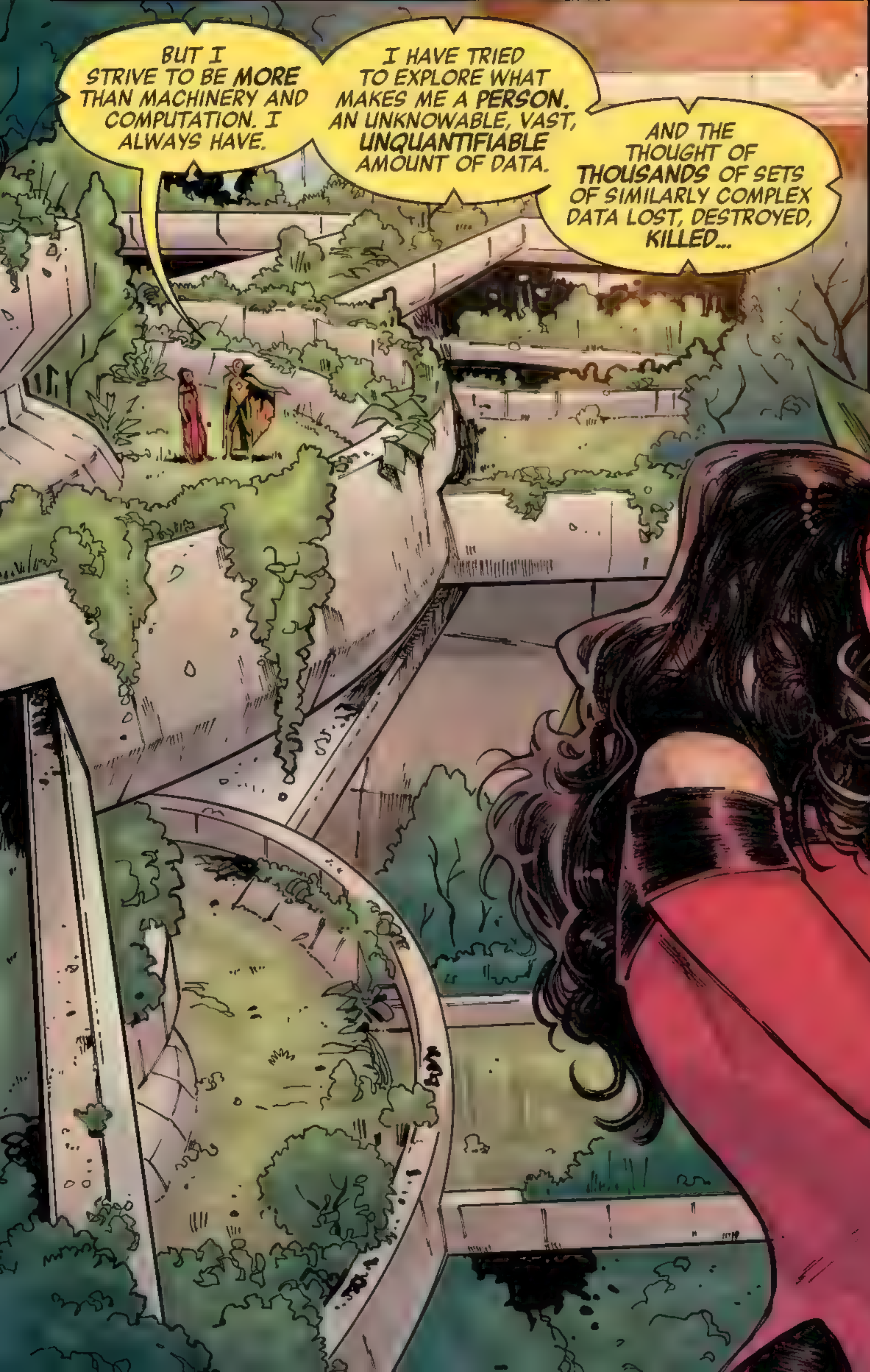
I UNDERSTAND.



I AM A SYNTHETIC.

DESPITE THE ENGRAM OVERLAYS THAT MAKE UP WHO I AM, MY CORE IS MACHINERY. MY MIND IS COMPUTATIONAL.

YOU ARE CORRECT. THOUSANDS OF LIVES LOST IN THE FACE OF BILLIONS IS A FAVORABLE OUTCOME.



BUT I STRIVE TO BE MORE THAN MACHINERY AND COMPUTATION. I ALWAYS HAVE.

I HAVE TRIED TO EXPLORE WHAT MAKES ME A PERSON. AN UNKNOWNABLE, VAST, UNQUANTIFIABLE AMOUNT OF DATA.

AND THE THOUGHT OF THOUSANDS OF SETS OF SIMILARLY COMPLEX DATA LOST, DESTROYED, KILLED...



...I CANNOT SEE THAT AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN A GRAVE LOSS.

A FAILURE.

THE KUIPER BELT.
PLUTO.
NOW.

THIS WAS MY
LAST RESORT

I HAD HOPED
TO FIND
LUCIDITY HERE

I THOUGHT THAT THE
DRIFTS OF METHANE
SNOW WOULD OFFER
ME COLD CLARITY

I WAS
WRONG

THERE IS NO TRUTH
HERE NO MORE THAN
THERE WAS ON EARTH

TIME TO
RETURN

TIME TO
RETURN AND
END IT





...I
ALWAYS FEEL
LIKE FLYING.

YOU
LOOK
TROUBLED,
SAM.

WHAT
IS IT?

AVENGERS
BUSINESS.

WE'RE TRYING
TO FIGURE OUT IF
WE **FAILED THE**
WORLD DURING THE
BLOOD HUNT.



HARDLY
SOMETHING
FOR **ME** TO WEIGH
IN ON, SAM.

HUMOR ME,
PLEASE. I COULD
USE AN OUTSIDE
PERSPECTIVE.

HMM.

WAS THERE
ANY **WARNING** THAT
YOU IGNORED?



I DON'T
THINK SO.

AND DID
YOU FIGHT BACK
WITH ANY
RESERVATION?

NONE.

THEN TO MY
MIND, YOU, THE
AVENGERS, DID
EVERYTHING YOU
COULD.



IT WAS A
TERRIBLE TIME.
BUT YOU AND I
ARE NO STRANGERS
TO TERRIBLE
TIMES.

I HAVE
FOUGHT IN A
WAR ON AN
ALIEN WORLD,
SAM.



I KNOW
THAT EVEN
WINNING
BRINGS WITH
IT TERRIBLE
LOSSES.

A HARD TRUTH IS THAT THERE ARE SIMPLY TIMES WHEN YOU **CANNOT** SAVE EVERYONE.

BUT--

BUT.

BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN YOU DO NOT TRY.

EVEN IF IT MEANS YOUR BLOOD ON THE GROUND, EVEN IF IT MEANS YOUR SPIRIT LEAVING YOUR BODY. YOU TRY.

THAT IS ALL YOU CAN DO. THAT IS ALL THE **AVENGERS** CAN DO. THAT IS ALL **ANY** OF US CAN DO.

IT WAS A LOT EASIER WHEN I WAS THE **FALCON**. TO BE **CAPTAIN AMERICA**...

IT'S NO SMALL THING TO WEAR A FLAG. IT CARRIES MEANING, BOTH GOOD AND BAD.

BUT YOU WEAR IT WELL.

THANK YOU.

HAVE I PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE?

ABOUT THAT, YES.

BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THAT WE **HAVE** FAILED.

OH?



WE'RE THE AVENGERS.

WE STAND FOR EVERY THINKING BEING ON THIS PLANET.

NOT JUST HUMANS, BUT SYNTHETICS, ATLANTEANS, LAVA MEN, MOLOIDS...



...AND MUTANTS.

WE FAILED YOUR PEOPLE. WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET ORCHIS GET AS STRONG AS IT DID.

ORCHIS OUTMANEUVERED MY ENTIRE SPECIES, SAM. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE AVENGERS COULD HAVE DONE.



DOESN'T MATTER. WE'RE THE AVENGERS.

THE WARNINGS WERE THERE. AND WE HAD RESERVATIONS.



WHICH WERE THE CONDITIONS FOR FAILURE YOU JUST QUOTED ME.

IT SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED.

IT WILL NOT AGAIN, OF THAT I CAN ASSURE YOU.



THE AVENGERS HAVE TO STAND FOR MUTANTS THE SAME WAY WE DO FOR EVERYONE ELSE.

WE NEED MUTANT REPRESENTATION. WE NEED A MUTANT VOICE.



I'D LIKE
FOR *YOU* TO
BE THAT VOICE
FOR US.

STORM,
I'D LIKE YOU
TO JOIN THE
AVENGERS.

**GAINESVILLE,
FLORIDA.**





"EVERYONE IS GOING TO WANT TO SEE THIS."

'TIS A FINE COOKING PIT, CITY.

THANK YOU, THOR.

...

ARE YOU WELL, THOR?



MY NATURE IS A GOD'S NATURE, CITY.

MOUNTAINS HAVE BEEN SPLIT BY MY LAUGHTER, ISLANDS HAVE BEEN DROWNED BY MY GRIEFS.

I AM SORE BESET AS OF LATE.

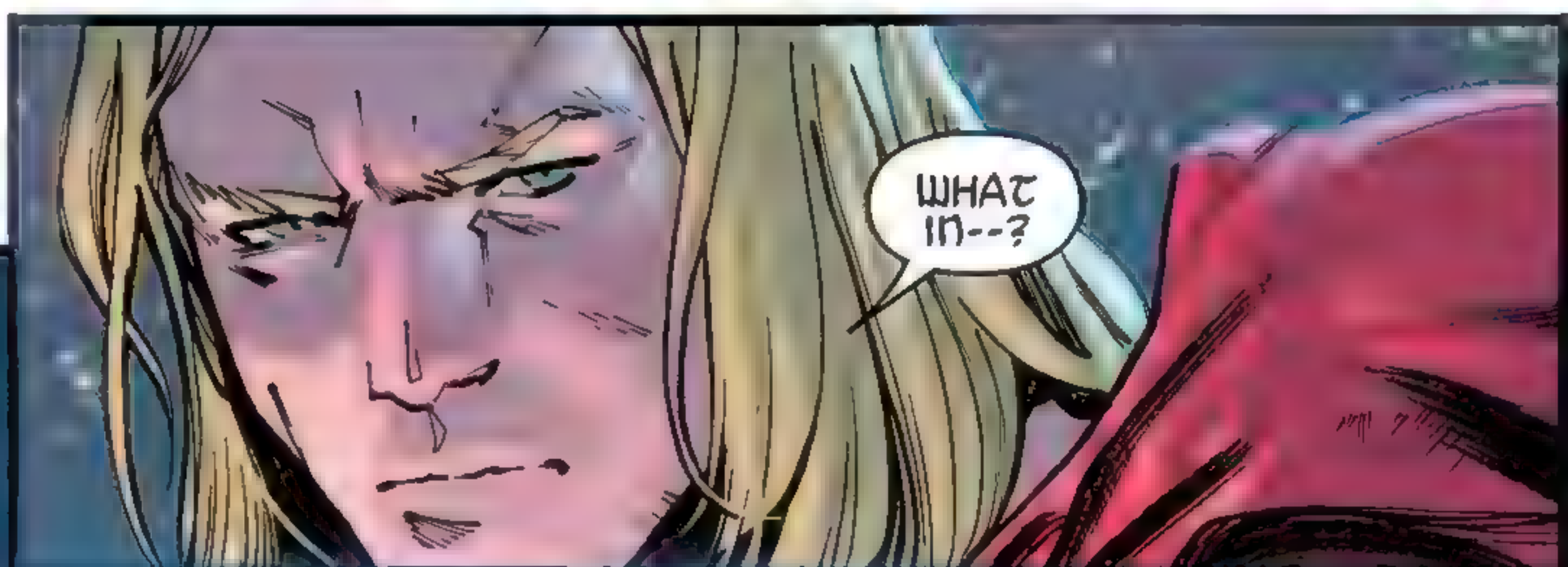
I THINK I UNDERSTAND--

WAIT.



THOR, THERE IS A TRANSMISSION FROM EARTH THAT I BELIEVE TO BE IMPORTANT--

SKKZZRRKK-- DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE SO MUCH TO OFFER THE WORLD BUT HAVE NO PLACE IN IT?



WHAT IN--?



MY NAME IS HYPERION. I WAS THE EARTH'S GREATEST HERO, AND I SAVED IT TIME AND TIME AGAIN.

I LIVED IN A WORLD THAT WAS GOOD. I LIVED IN A WORLD THAT MADE SENSE. A WORLD WHERE I LOVED AND WAS LOVED.

THAT
WORLD WAS
A LIE. EVERYTHING
I KNEW, EVERYTHING
I HAD DONE, WAS
A LIE.*

CAPTAIN
MARVEL TO THE
AVENGERS--

--PRIORITY
ALERT!

*HEROES REBORN (2021).

AND IF MY
WORLD WAS
A LIE, WHAT DID
THAT MAKE
ME?

IF YOUR
WORLD IS REAL,
THEN I AM A LIE.
IF I AM REAL, THEN
IT IS YOUR WORLD
THAT IS THE
LIE.

I HAVE
NO WAY TO
PROVE EITHER,
SO I AM GOING
TO END
BOTH.

BY THE
TIME YOU HEAR
THIS, I WILL BE
APPROACHING EARTH
AT A SIGNIFICANT
PORTION OF THE SPEED
OF LIGHT ON A
COLLISION
COURSE.

WHEN I
ARRIVE, WHEN
I IMPACT, WHAT
IS LIE AND WHAT IS
TRUTH WILL NO
LONGER BE
RELEVANT.

I DON'T
TELL YOU THIS
TO FRIGHTEN YOU.
I TELL YOU THIS SO
THAT YOU HAVE TIME
TO MAKE PEACE
WITH WHATEVER
YOU HOLD
IMPORTANT.



NOTHING CAN
STOP ME

HYPERION
OUT



JUST OUTSIDE OF PLUTO'S ORBIT.

"THERE IS A
BULLET AIMED
AT THE **WORLD**."

"IT IS NAMED
'HYPERION.'"



THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY. EARTH ORBIT.

HERE IS
WHAT WE
KNOW.

WE'VE ENCOUNTERED
DIFFERENT *VERSIONS*
OF HYPERION OVER THE
YEARS, SO WE CAN'T BE
CERTAIN WHAT *THIS*
ONE IS CAPABLE
OF.

BUT ASSUMING
THAT *THIS* ONE IS LIKE
THE *OTHERS*, HE IS PERFECTLY
CAPABLE OF ASSUMING A VELOCITY
APPROACHING LIGHTSPEED IN A
VACUUM AND IS NEARLY
INDESTRUCTIBLE.

IT'S A
LITTLE OVER FIVE
BILLION KILOMETERS
BETWEEN PLUTO
AND HERE...

...WITH THAT
KIND OF RUNWAY,
HE'S GOING TO ARRIVE
WITH ENOUGH *KINETIC*
ENERGY TO CRACK
THE WORLD IN
HALF.

VISION,
HOW LONG DO
WE HAVE?

TIME: 05:29:57

NOT KNOWING
HIS EXACT SPEED
AND TIME OF DEPARTURE,
I'D ESTIMATE SOMEWHERE
IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF
FIVE AND A HALF
HOURS.

THE CITY
AND I WILL RUN
PROJECTIONS
OF HIS FLIGHT
PATH, BUT...

...BUT IT IS
A DAUNTING
TASK.

EVEN A *BULLET*
DOES NOT TRAVEL IN
A *STRAIGHT* LINE. AND
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A BULLET
THE SIZE OF A MAN IN OVER
FIVE BILLION KILOMETERS
OF SPACE.

IT IS A
TASK TO TEST
EVEN A GOD.

OR
PERHAPS A
GODDESS?



WELL
MET, THUNDER
GOD.

HELLO, MY
FRIENDS. HELLO,
AVENGERS.

I ASKED
STORM TO
JOIN US TO BE
A VOICE FOR
MUTANTS.

SHE DIDN'T
GET A CHANCE
TO ANSWER BEFORE
HYPERION'S
BROADCAST
WENT LIVE.

I AM AT
YOUR DISPOSAL,
AVENGERS.

HOW
CAN I
HELP?



JUST THE
PERSON I WANTED
TO SEE, ORORO.

THIS IS A
GLOBAL PROBLEM,
SO WE'VE GOT TO
COORDINATE A GLOBAL
RESPONSE. WE NEED
TO UTILIZE EVERY
ASSET AT OUR
DISPOSAL.

AND I
KNOW WHO
I WANT YOU
TO TALK
TO.

**X-MEN HQ,
THE FACTORY.**
MERLE, ALASKA.

TIME: 05:11:23

...SO
YOU'RE AN
AVENGER
AGAIN?

PERHAPS.
I HAVEN'T
SAID YES
YET.

BUT IT
SEEMS LIKE AN
OPPORTUNITY
FOR US. FOR
MUTANTS.

IT SEEMS
LIKE AN OPPORTUNITY
FOR THE *AVENGERS*, IF
I'M BEING HONEST.

YOU KNOW
THERE'S ALWAYS
A PLACE FOR YOU
WITH THE
X-MEN.



HA!

SCOTT, YOU
KNOW THAT YOU
AND I COULD NEVER
GO BACK TO TAKING
ORDERS FROM ONE
ANOTHER.

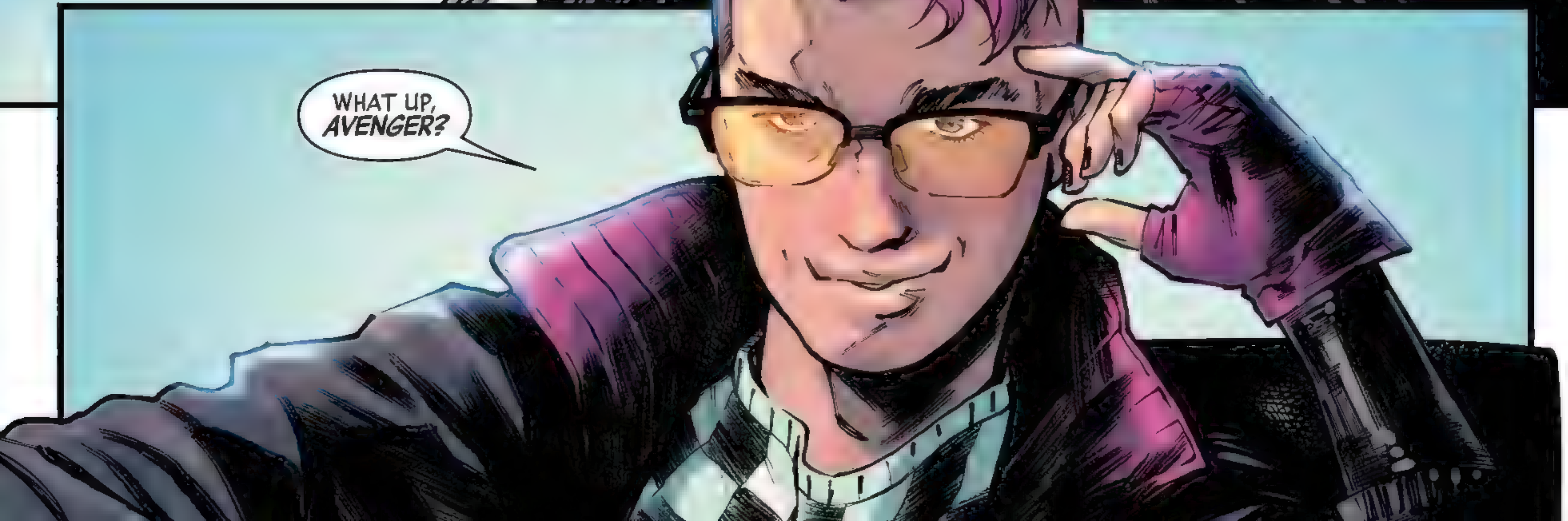
...
I
SUPPOSE
THAT'S
FAIR.



CAPTAIN MARVEL
IS THE AVENGERS
CHAIR, BUT THEY'RE
AN ASSEMBLAGE OF
EQUALS.

NOT A
STRIKE TEAM
WITH A *COMBAT*
LEADER.

LOOK,
I SAID I
GOT IT.



TIME: 04:51:41

...I'VE ACCESSED
THE AVENGERS DEEP-
SPACE MONITORING STATION,
BUT I'M GETTING NOTHING
FROM IT ABOUT
OUR BOY.

THE RESOURCES
OF THE INTERGALACTIC
EMPIRE OF WAKANDA ARE
OF NO HELP TO US HERE
EITHER.

THE CITY AND I
ARE NARROWING
DOWN POTENTIAL
FLIGHT PATHS FOR
HYPERION.

BUT IT REMAINS
A DISTRESSINGLY
LARGE AMOUNT OF
SPACE WITH A SIMILARLY
DISTRESSING AMOUNT
OF VARIABLES.

AND THAT
LEAVES OUT
WHAT WE'RE
GOING TO DO
WITH HIM IF
WE FIND
HIM.

INTERCEPTING
A SUPERHUMAN
MOVING AT
NEAR-C
SPEEDS--

--ESPECIALLY
WHEN WE DON'T KNOW
WHO EXACTLY THE HELL
HE IS OR WHAT HE'S
CAPABLE OF.

TONY,
THERE'S A CALL
INCOMING.

IT'S--IT'S
HIM--

HIM WHO?
HYPERION?

NO.
WORSE.

I KNOW
I'M ABOUT THE
LAST PERSON YOU
WANT TO SEE
RIGHT NOW.

THE CITY'S
DIGITALLY SHAKING
SO BAD I'M AFRAID THE
CALL'S GOING TO GET
DROPPED, AND I CAN'T
SAY AS I BLAME IT.



BUT
I'M THE ONLY
PERSON IN THE
WORLD WHO KNOWS
WHAT THIS IS ALL
ABOUT.

I'M THE
ONLY ONE WHO
REMEMBERS A WORLD
WITHOUT AVENGERS. A
WORLD WHERE *HYPERION*
AND THE *SQUADRON*
SUPREME OF AMERICA
RAN THE SHOW.



A WORLD
CREATED BY
MEPHISTO.

177A BLEECKER ST.
THE SANGTUM
SANCTORUM OF
DOCTOR STEPHEN
STRANGE.

MEPHISTO?!

TIME: 04:25:43

YES.

ACCORDING
TO **BLADE**, MEPHISTO
CREATED A WORLD
WHERE NONE OF US EVER
BECAME WHO WE
ARE NOW.

INSTEAD,
HYPERION WAS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST
HERO, AS THE LEADER
OF THE **SQUADRON**
SUPREME OF
AMERICA.*

THE AVENGERS
PREVAILED AND
SET THINGS TO RIGHTS,
BUT ONLY **BLADE**
REMEMBERS IT.
BLADE... AND
HYPERION.

***SEE HEROES REBORN 2021!**

I HAVE...
DIFFICULTY
ACCEPTING THE
DAYWALKER'S
WORD.

"I MATCHED SWORDS
WITH HIM IN THIS **VERY**
ROOM OVER MY LOVE'S
DYING BODY."

DARLING, YOU
KNOW HE WAS
POSSESSED--

CLEA, I
SUFFERED AT
VARNAE'S HANDS
AS WELL, IN THE
BLOOD HUNT.

BUT **BLADE**
SUFFERED THE
MOST--MADE AN
UNWILLING PARTY
TO ATROCITY.

BLADE
WAS AN
AVENGER.

AND I
TRUST HIM
NOW.

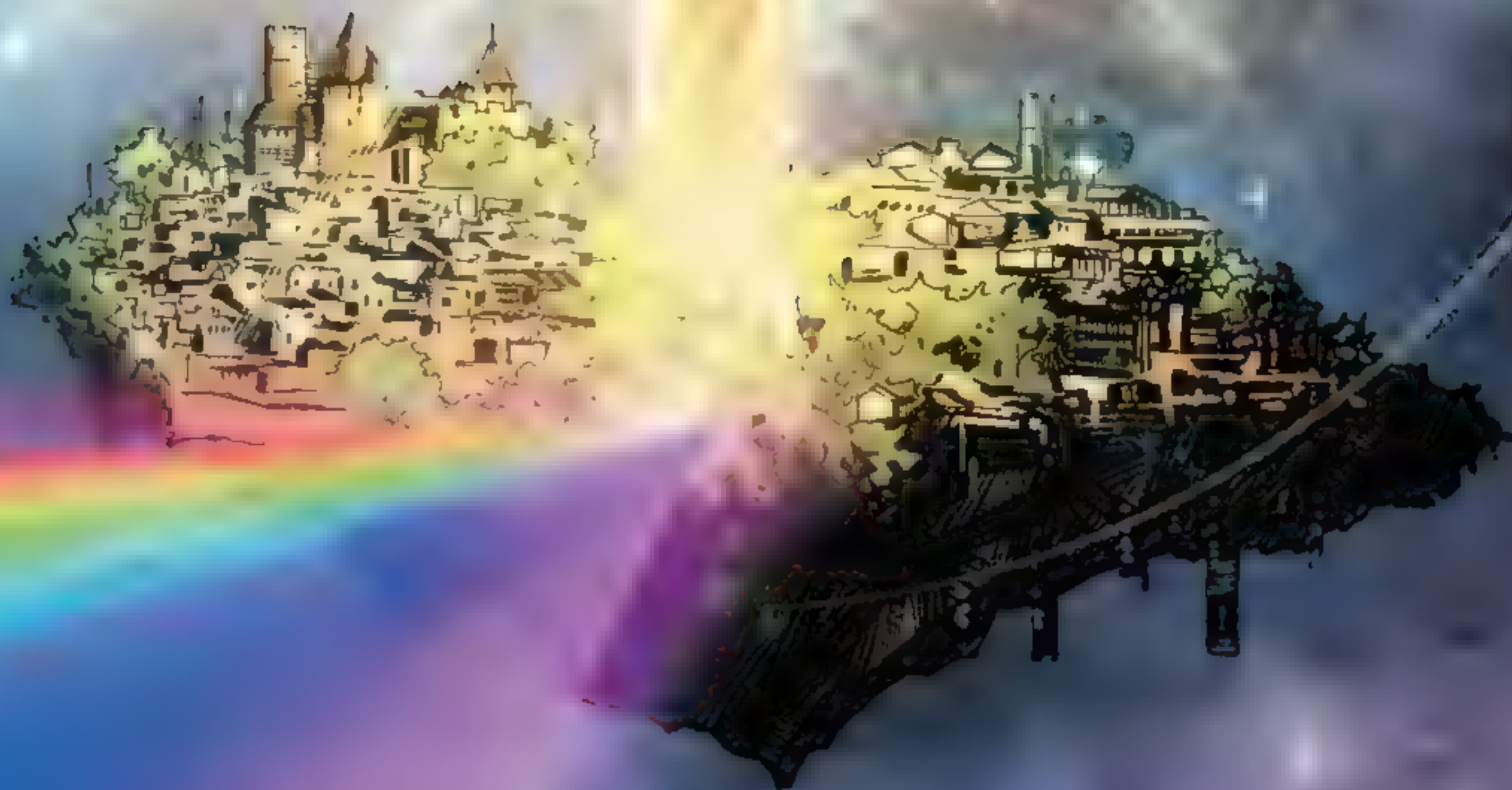
ASGARD.

HYPERION
WAS A HERO.

LIKE
US.

AND THEN HIS
WORLD CHANGED,
AND HE DIDN'T HAVE
A PLACE IN IT
ANYMORE.

HE'S LOST,
THOR. LASHING
OUT IN THE WAY ONLY
A SUPERHUMAN
CAN.



TIME: 03:58:39

TO BE FORGOTTEN
BY THE WORLD IS NO
SMALL THING WHEN ONE
HAS LIVED AS A GIANT
WITHIN IT.

BUT THE
FACT REMAINS,
CAPTAIN AMERICA:
WE OWE A DUTY TO
THE WORLD, NOT
HYPERION.



I KNOW
THAT.

CITY, HOME,
PLEASE.

LET'S SEE
WHAT THE SCIENCE
CREW HAVE WHIPPED
UP. GOOD LUCK ON
YOUR END.

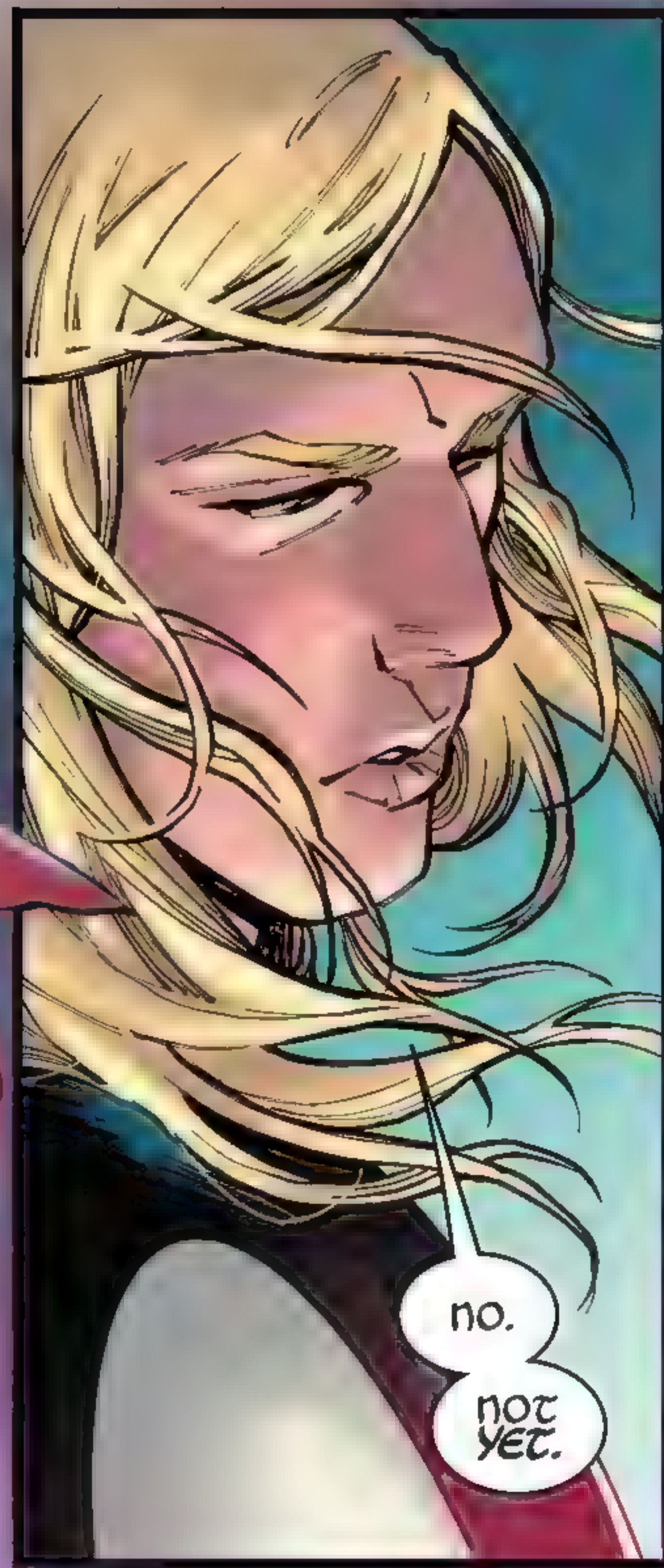


AH.

MIDGARD
IN PERIL?

AS
EVER,
SIF.

...HAVE
YOU TOLD
THEM?



no.

not
yet.

TIME: 02:12:09

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE IT, BUT THIS IS OUR **BEST SHOT** TO **SAVE THE WORLD**.

AND I'M **NOT** JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE **BUILDING WEAPONS AGAIN** IS THE **DIRTIEST, GUILTIEST THRILL** I'VE ALLOWED MYSELF IN RECENT MEMORY.

INTERCEPTOR MUNITIONS?

YOU GOT IT.

BLADE SAID HE'S VULNERABLE TO **VIBRANIUM**, SO WE'RE BUILDING **HYPERSONIC AREA-DENIAL MISSILES**.

T'CHALLA?

ONCE WE HAVE **HYPERION'S TRAJECTORY**, WE'LL LAUNCH THROUGH THE CITY'S **TELEPORT GATES**.

THE MISSILES WILL ASSUME AN INTERCEPT PATH AND **EXPLODE**, FILLING SPACE WITH A FIELD OF HIGH-VELOCITY **VIBRANIUM SHRAPNEL**.

WHEN HE MOVES THROUGH THAT SPACE, THAT WILL BE THE END OF THE THREAT.

HE'S EXTREMELY FAST.

COULDN'T HE JINK PAST THE BEARING CLOUD?

DOUBTFUL.

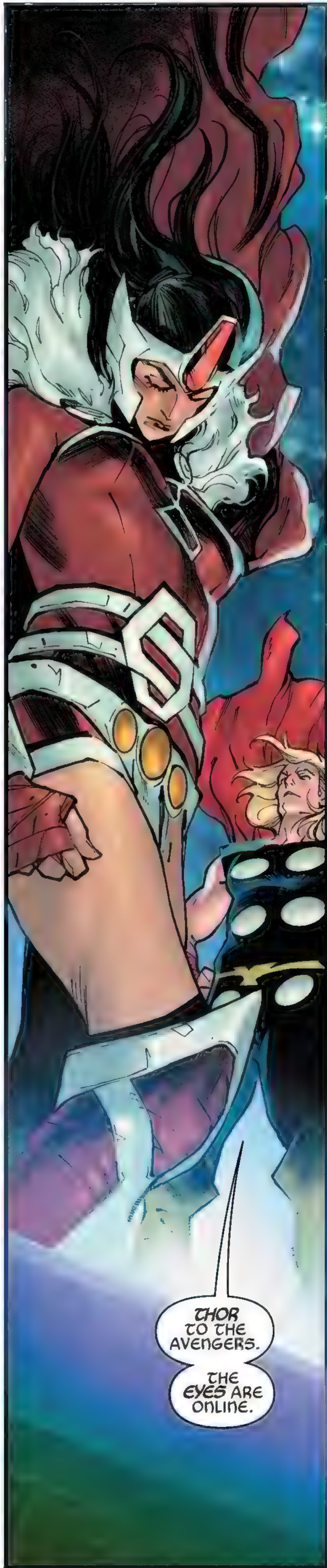
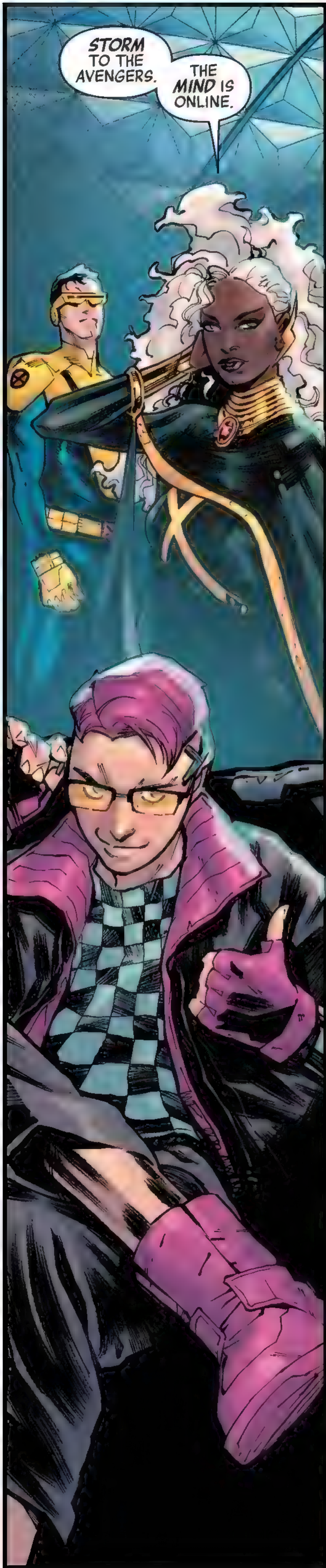
APPROACHING LIGHTSPEED, HE WILL BE EXPERIENCING SEVERE TIME DILATION.

WHAT HAS SEEMED LIKE FIVE-PLUS HOURS TO US WILL BE LESS THAN A MINUTE FOR HIM, SUBJECTIVE TIME.

THE SHRAPNEL CLOUD WILL BE UNLIKELY TO REGISTER TO HIM AT ALL.

HYPERION WILL DIE INSTANTLY.

ANOTHER PROUD TRIUMPH FOR THE AVENGERS.



WE ARE
GO FOR SEARCH
AND DESTROY.

WANDA:

FIRE
IT UP.



LET
US ACT AS
ONE.

THREE
BECOME ONE
TO MAKE THE
SOUL



TO JOIN WITH
THE MIND

THIS
SUCKS

"...AND PEER
WITH PEERLESS
EYES.

"THREE MADE
ONE, AND THREE
INTO ONE AGAIN.

"SOUL, MIND
AND EYES.

"MAGIC, MUTANT
AND THE MIGHT
OF GODS."

AH.



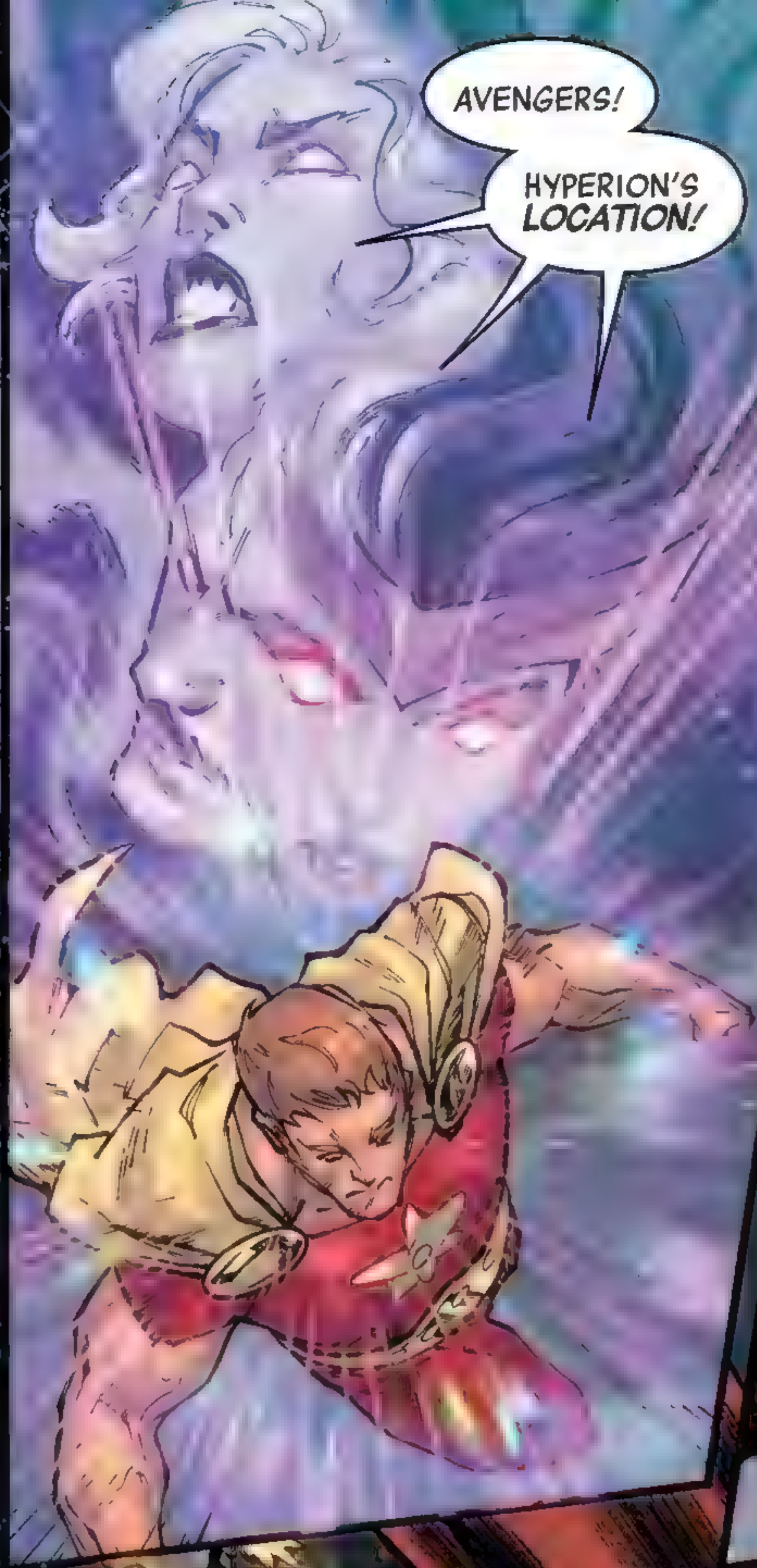


THERE
HE IS.

SO
SMALL,
AND SO
ALONE.

A **BULLET**
IS ALSO
SMALL, SIF, AND
FREQUENTLY
ALONE.

BUT NO
LESS **DEADLY**
FOR IT.



AVENGERS!

HYPERION'S
LOCATION!



GOT
IT...

ESTIMATING
TRAJECTORY...

LOCKED!



CITY!

TELEPORT ALL
MUNITIONS ON
INTERCEPT!



DONE,
T'CHALLA.

I'VE SENT
A PLASTOID
TO OBSERVE.



THIS ISN'T
RIGHT. THERE
SHOULD BE
ANOTHER
WAY.

THERE
SHOULD
BE.

BUT
HYPERION
DIDN'T LEAVE
US ONE.
AND I
THINK THAT'S
BY DESIGN.



HYPERION
WANTS TO *DIE*
BECAUSE HE DOESN'T
HAVE ANYTHING
TO *LIVE* FOR.

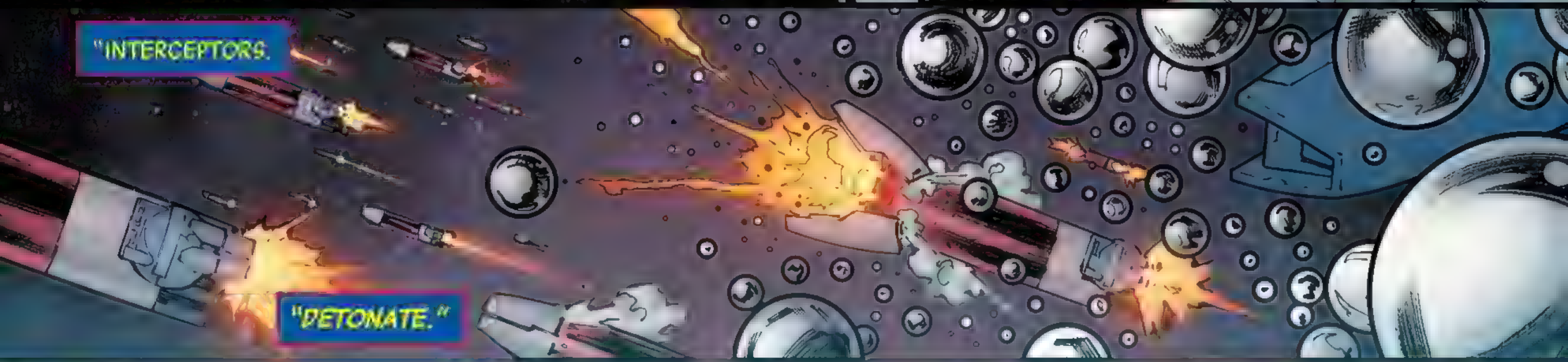
I DON'T
THINK HE EVER
THOUGHT HE'D
REACH THE
EARTH.

I THINK
HE DID THIS TO
PUT US IN A POSITION
WHERE WE HAD TO *KILL*
HIM, BECAUSE WE'RE
THE ONLY ONES HE
BELIEVED *COULD*.



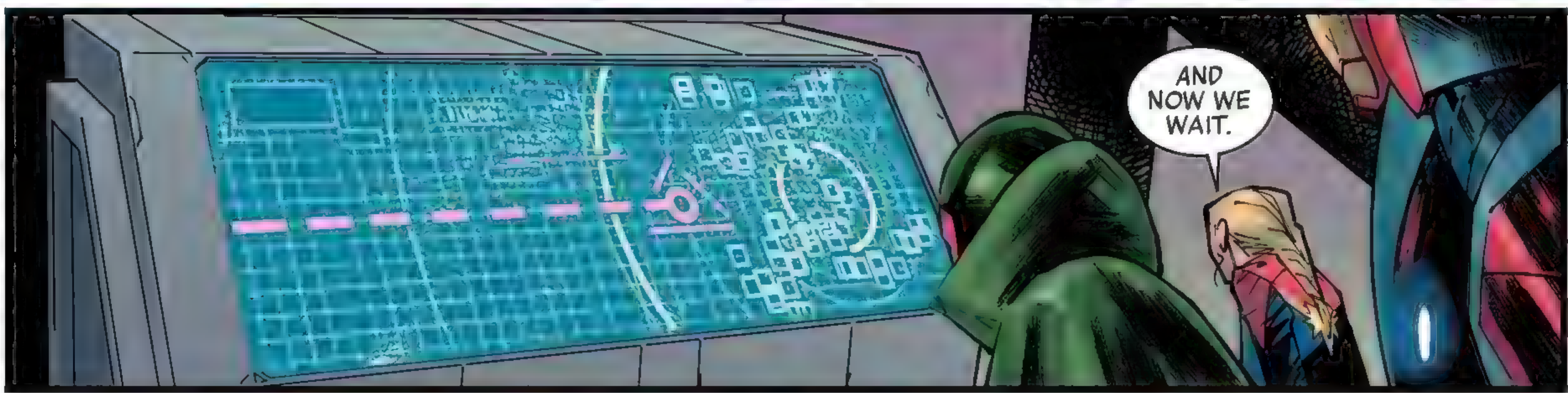
I'M CHAIR
OF THE AVENGERS.
I'VE GOT TO
MAKE THE *HARD*
DECISIONS.

AND THIS
ISN'T ONE
OF THEM.



"INTERCEPTORS."

"DETONATE."



AND
NOW WE
WAIT.



INDEED.
NOW WE
WAIT.

WAIT--



CITY!

CAN YOU CREATE AN EMERGENCY DIMENSION GATE ON HYPERION'S TRAJECTORY?

YES, VISION... BUT WE HAVE RUN THIS SCENARIO.

IF I SENT HYPERION TO ANOTHER DIMENSION, THE GATE WOULD NOT CLOSE FOR *HOURS*, DAMAGED AS I STILL AM.

I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO *CLOSE* IT BEFORE HE RETURNED AND *RESUMED* HIS COLLISION COURSE.



VISION, WHAT HAVE YOU THOUGHT UP--?

YES, CITY. BUT WHAT IF HE DIDN'T WANT TO COME BACK?

I DON'T--

OH.



OH. A CHANCE FOR ME TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.

TALK TO ME, VISION.

IT IS SIMPLE, CAROL.



"HYPERION CHOSE DEATH. HE MADE US CHOOSE DEATH."

"BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT CHOICE."

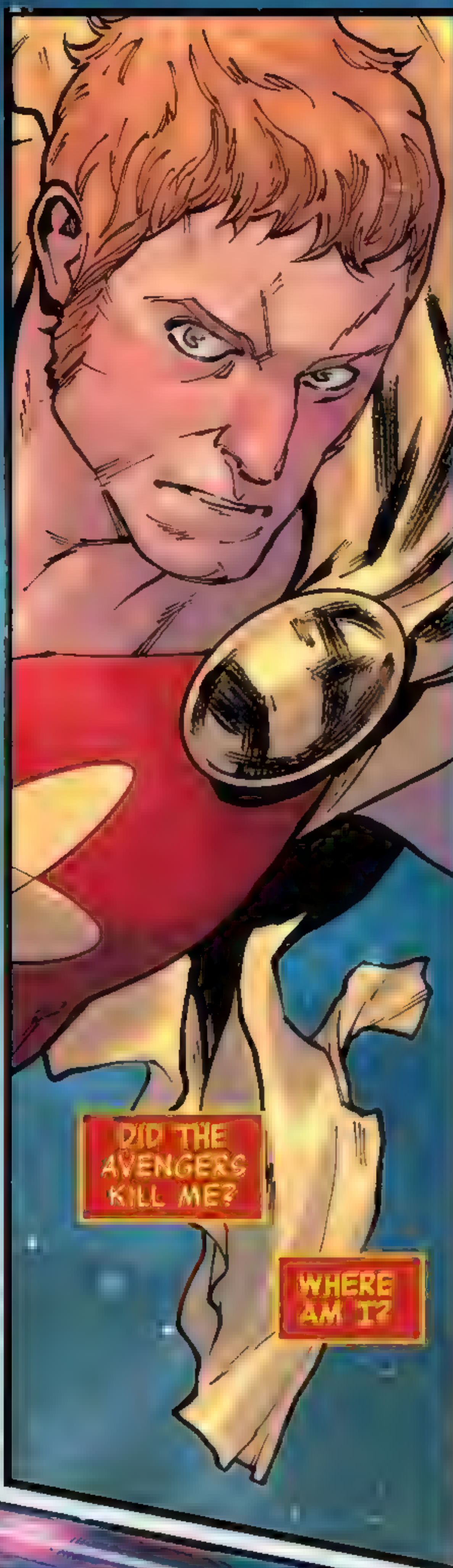
EARTH-616.



EARTH-901.



BY THE TIME I NOTICE SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT, THAT I'M OFF COURSE AND HAVE SLOWED MYSELF, I'VE TRAVELED THOUSANDS OF KILOMETERS.



DID THE AVENGERS KILL ME?

WHERE AM I?

EARTH IS WITHIN RANGE OF MY HYPER-VISION.

I FOLLOW THE RADIO SIGNALS BACK AT A MORE SENSIBLE SPEED IN ORDER TO GET MY BEARINGS. IF THIS IS A TRICK...I CAN SIMPLY TRY AGAIN.

WHICH IS THE FIRST SIGN THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG.

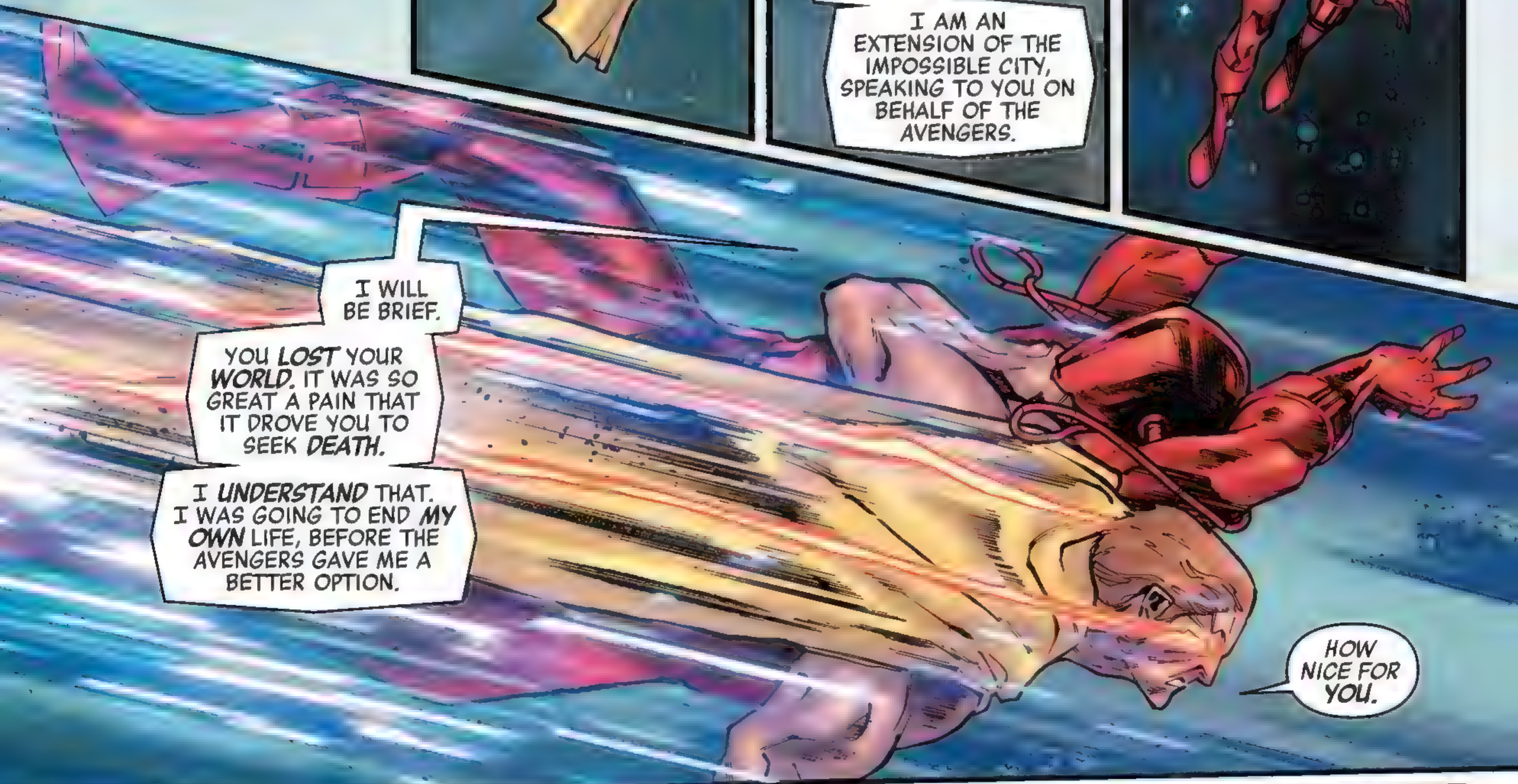
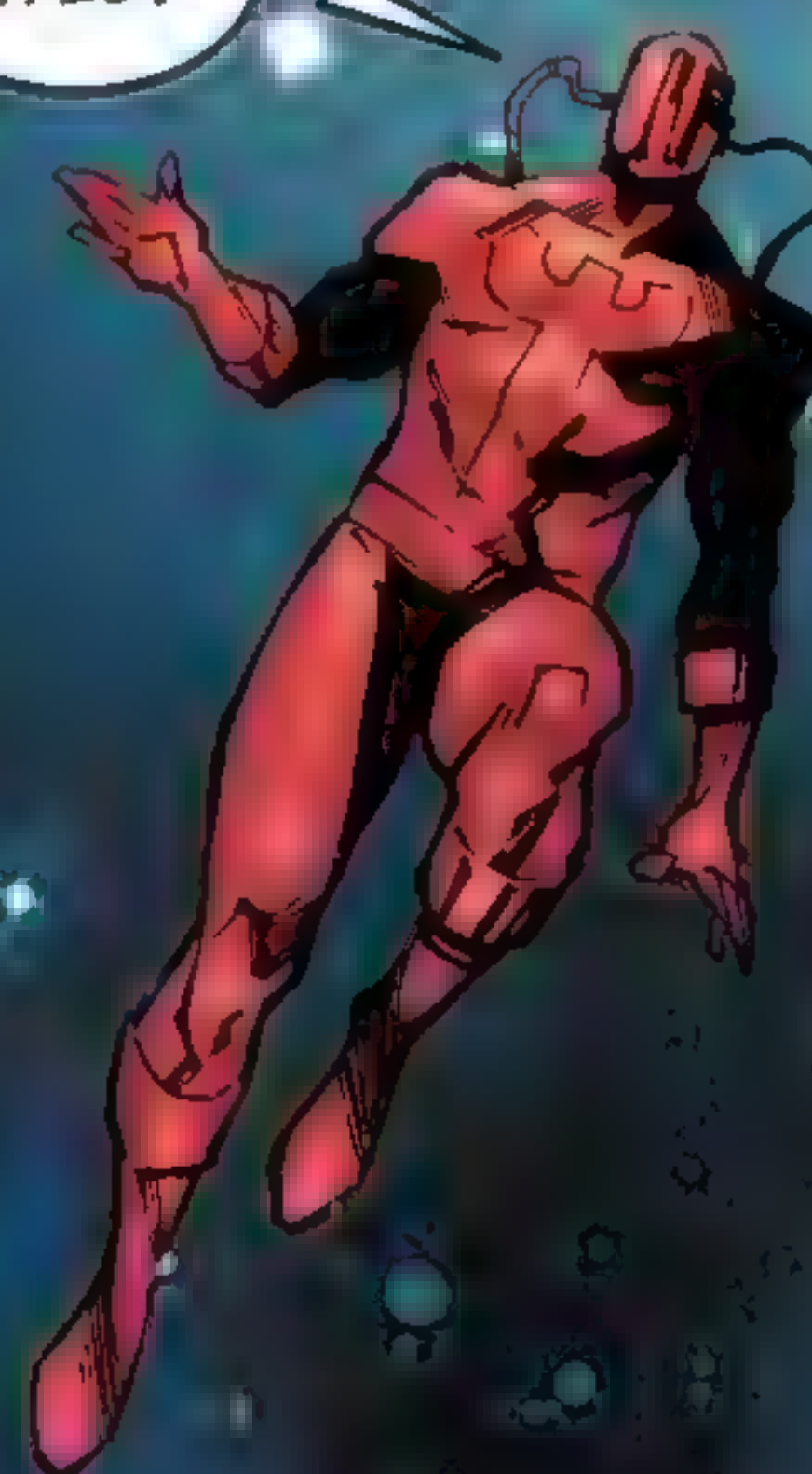
HELLO, HYPERION.

I AM AN EXTENSION OF THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY, SPEAKING TO YOU ON BEHALF OF THE AVENGERS.



I BELIEVE YOU ARE CAPABLE OF GENERATING RADIO WAVES TO CONVERSE IN A VACUUM?

...YES?



I WILL BE BRIEF.

YOU LOST YOUR WORLD. IT WAS SO GREAT A PAIN THAT IT DROVE YOU TO SEEK DEATH.

I UNDERSTAND THAT. I WAS GOING TO END MY OWN LIFE, BEFORE THE AVENGERS GAVE ME A BETTER OPTION.

HOW NICE FOR YOU.



I HAVE NO BETTER OPTION.

I WAS A HERO! AND IT WAS ALL A LIE!



IF *OUR* WORLD
DIDN'T NEED
YOU, HYPERION...

...THEN I GIVE
YOU ONE THAT
DOES.

THIS EARTH
WAS *SCOURGED*
BY MONSTERS.

ITS CITIES
DESTROYED FOR
SPORT, ITS PEOPLE
ABUSED, ITS HEROES
MURDERED.

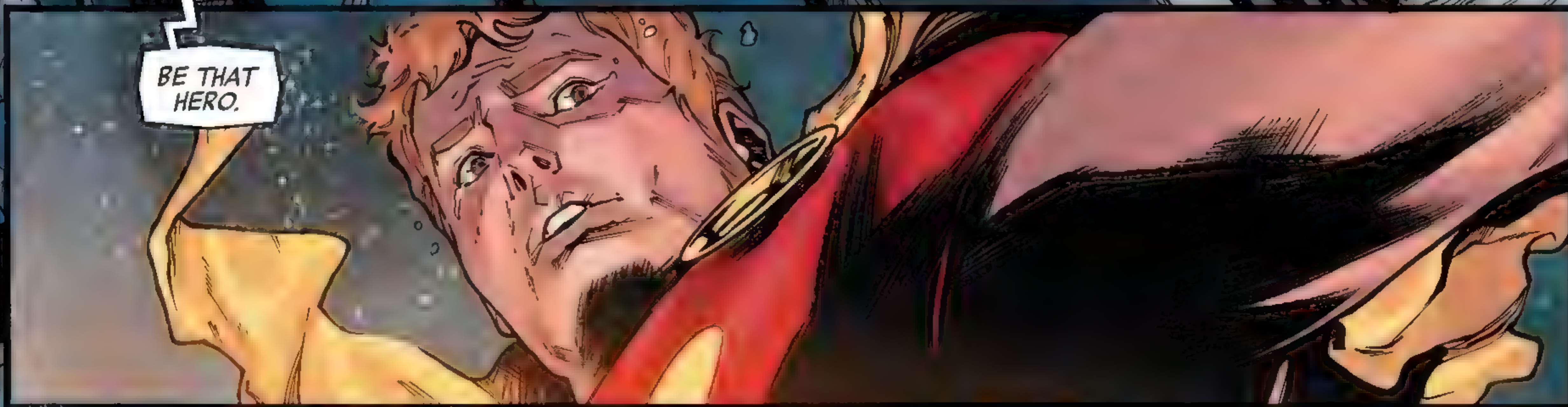
I, AS THEIR
SLAVE, *BROUGHT*
THE *ASHEN*
COMBINE HERE.

JUST AS I,
NOW *FREE*,
BROUGHT
YOU HERE.



THIS IS A *WORLD*
WITH *NO HEROES*,
HYPERION. A WORLD THAT
BADLY *NEEDS* ONE, AS
BADLY AS *YOU* NEED A
REASON TO LIVE.

CHOOSE
LIFE.



BE THAT
HERO.

LATER.

WELL.

QUITE
THE DAY.

AYE. IT
HAS INDEED
BEEN.

WILL
YOU ACCEPT,
WIND-RIDER?
WILL YOU
BE AN AVENGER
ONCE AGAIN?

I AM
CONSIDERING
IT *STILL*,
THOR.
WHAT
ARE YOUR
THOUGHTS?

ACCEPT THE
INVITATION.
THEY
WILL NEED
YOU.

"THEY,"
THUNDER
GOD?
NOT
"WE"?



AYE.

I AM
EMBROILED IN...
DIFFICULTIES.

I HAVE BEEN
FALSELY ACCUSED
OF MURDER.* IT
WEIGHS HEAVILY
UPON ME.

AND THAT
IS WHY I AM
TAKING MY LEAVE
OF THE
AVENGERS.

*SEE RECENT ISSUES OF IMMORTAL THOR.



MY FELLOWS
DESERVE NOT
TO BE TARRED
WITH THE SAME
BRUSH I AM.

AND I
MUSTN'T ALLOW
MY DISTRACTION
TO PUT THEM
IN DANGER.

ACCEPT
THE INVITATION,
ORORO MUNROE.



BECOME,
ONCE MORE, AN
AVENGER.

SPEAK
FOR YOUR
PEOPLE.



AND
ENSURE THAT
A GOD OF THUNDER
RIDES WITH THE
AVENGERS
STILL.



THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY. EARTH ORBIT.

ARE YOU
SURE ABOUT
THIS?

I AM.

THERE ARE
AN **UNTOLD NUMBER**
OF PRISONERS WITHIN
THE **TESSERACT SPACE**
INSIDE OF MERIDIAN
DIADEM.

WE HAVE
ALREADY WAITED
TOO LONG, IGNORED
WHAT COULD BE
HAPPENING IN
THERE.

I'M
GOING IN.

HM.

I SUPPOSE IF
ANYONE COULD SURVIVE
A RECON MISSION IN THERE,
IT WOULD BE THE **BLACK
PANTHER**.

AND I **SUPPOSE**
THE TIMING HAS **NOTHING**
TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT
YOUR **EX-WIFE** JUST
JOINED THE TEAM.

HRNN.

**CAPTAIN
AMERICA** YOU
MAY BE...

...BUT THE
FALCON'S
SHARP EYES
REMAIN.

YOU'RE BEING
RIDICULOUS.

I'VE NEVER
BEEN AFRAID OF
DEATH, SAM.

ONLY
LOSING.

AND LOSING
ORORO MUNROE
IS MY **GREATEST
FAILURE**.



--GOING TO BE A LITTLE **SHORT-HANDED** WITH T'CHALLA DOING HIS RECON MISSION INTO MERIDIAN DIADEM AND THOR GOING ON LEAVE.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE, ORORO.

DO YOU KNOW, CAROL...

...SO AM I. THIS FEELS RIGHT.



AND YOUR-- OUR-- NEW HOME IS VERY CHARMING.

THANK YOU, ORORO.

I AM ENDEAVORING TO BE THE BEST AVENGER I CAN BE. MR. JARVIS HAS BEEN **SUCH** AN INSPIRATION.

AND I SUPPOSE T'CHALLA THROWING HIMSELF INTO A **DANGEROUS SOLO MISSION** TO AVOID AN **AWKWARD CONVERSATION** IS ABOUT AS T'CHALLA A THING AS THERE HAS EVER BEEN.



WELL. EXES AND SUPER-HEROING, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS.

HE'LL BE FINE. HE'S AN **EXTRAORDINARY** MAN, BUT HE'S ALWAYS HAD TO FIGHT HIS **PRIDE**.

I AM WELL AWARE OF **BOTH** THOSE THINGS.



BESIDES, HE'S **RIGHT**.

"THIS NEEDS TO BE DONE AND HE'S THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO DO IT"



"AND IF THERE'S ONE GOOD THING TO HAVE COME OUT OF THE BLOOD HUNT, IT'S THAT HE AND SAM ARE TIGHT AGAIN."

"IT'S GOOD FOR **BOTH** OF THEM."



DOOM
WOULD SPEAK
WITH YOU.



**REGISTAN DESERT,
AFGHANISTAN.**

WELL...

...HERE
WE ARE.

BE
READY FOR
ANYTHING.

AH.

AVENGERS.

CAPTAIN
MARVEL, CAPTAIN
AMERICA, IRON MAN,
VISION, SCARLET
WITCH AND
STORM.

GOOD.
PROMPT.

DOOM'S
TIME IS TOO
VALUABLE TO BE
WASTED.



SO,
VICTOR.

(OR YOUR
ASTRAL FORM,
AT ANY RATE.)

YOU'VE
STOLEN THE
MANTLE OF
SORCERER
SUPREME.

HAVE YOU
ASKED US HERE
TO *JUSTIFY*
YOURSELF?



NO.

I HAVE
SUMMONED YOU
HERE TO *JUSTIFY*
YOURSELVES.

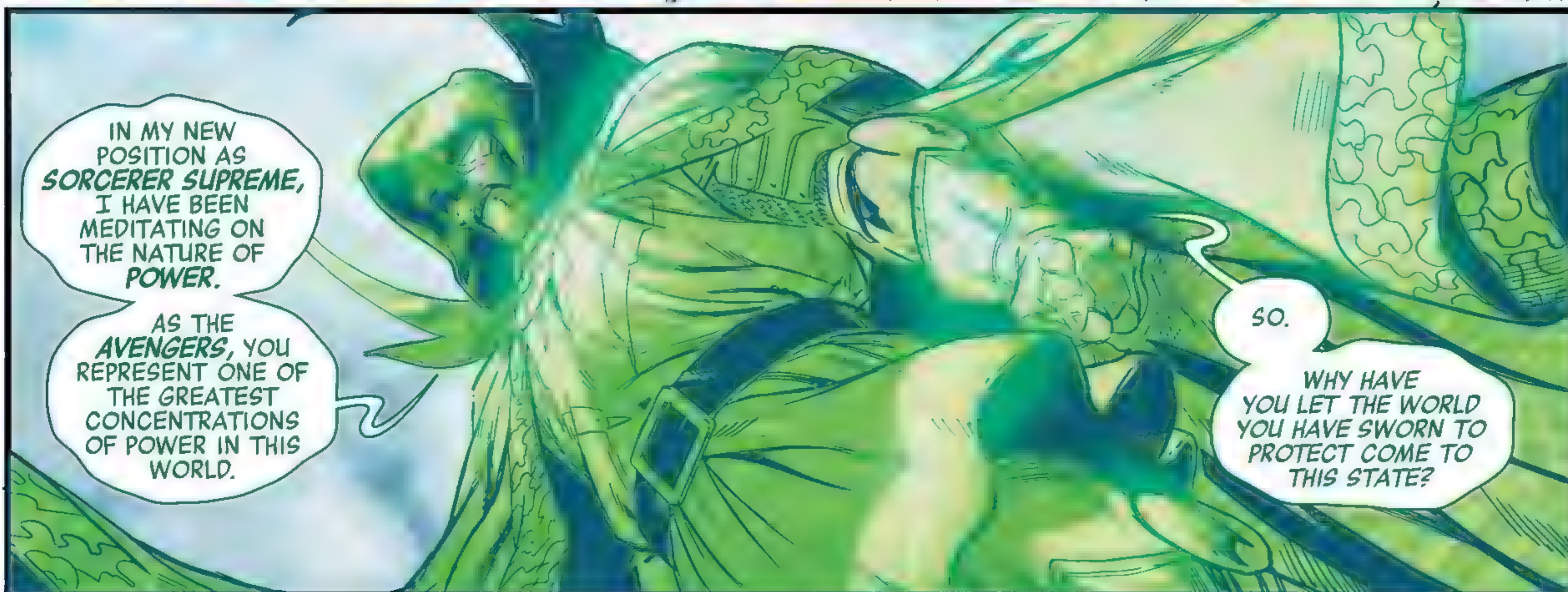


JUSTIFY
OURSELVES--

THERE HE IS.
THAT'S DOOM,
ALL RIGHT.



EXPLAIN
YOURSELF,
DOOM.



IN MY NEW
POSITION AS
SORCERER SUPREME,
I HAVE BEEN
MEDITATING ON
THE NATURE OF
POWER.

AS THE
AVENGERS, YOU
REPRESENT ONE OF
THE GREATEST
CONCENTRATIONS
OF POWER IN THIS
WORLD.

SO.

WHY HAVE
YOU LET THE WORLD
YOU HAVE SWORN TO
PROTECT COME TO
THIS STATE?



THE WORLD
IS RIVEN BY WAR.
HARROWED BY HATE.
FRACTURED, BROKEN,
WARRING **FLAGS**.

LESSER MEN
WIELD POWER OVER
THEIR BETTERS. **INJUSTICE**
IS THE COMMON CURRENCY
OF THE NATIONS OF THIS
WORLD, WHAT SHOULD
BE **YOUR** WORLD.

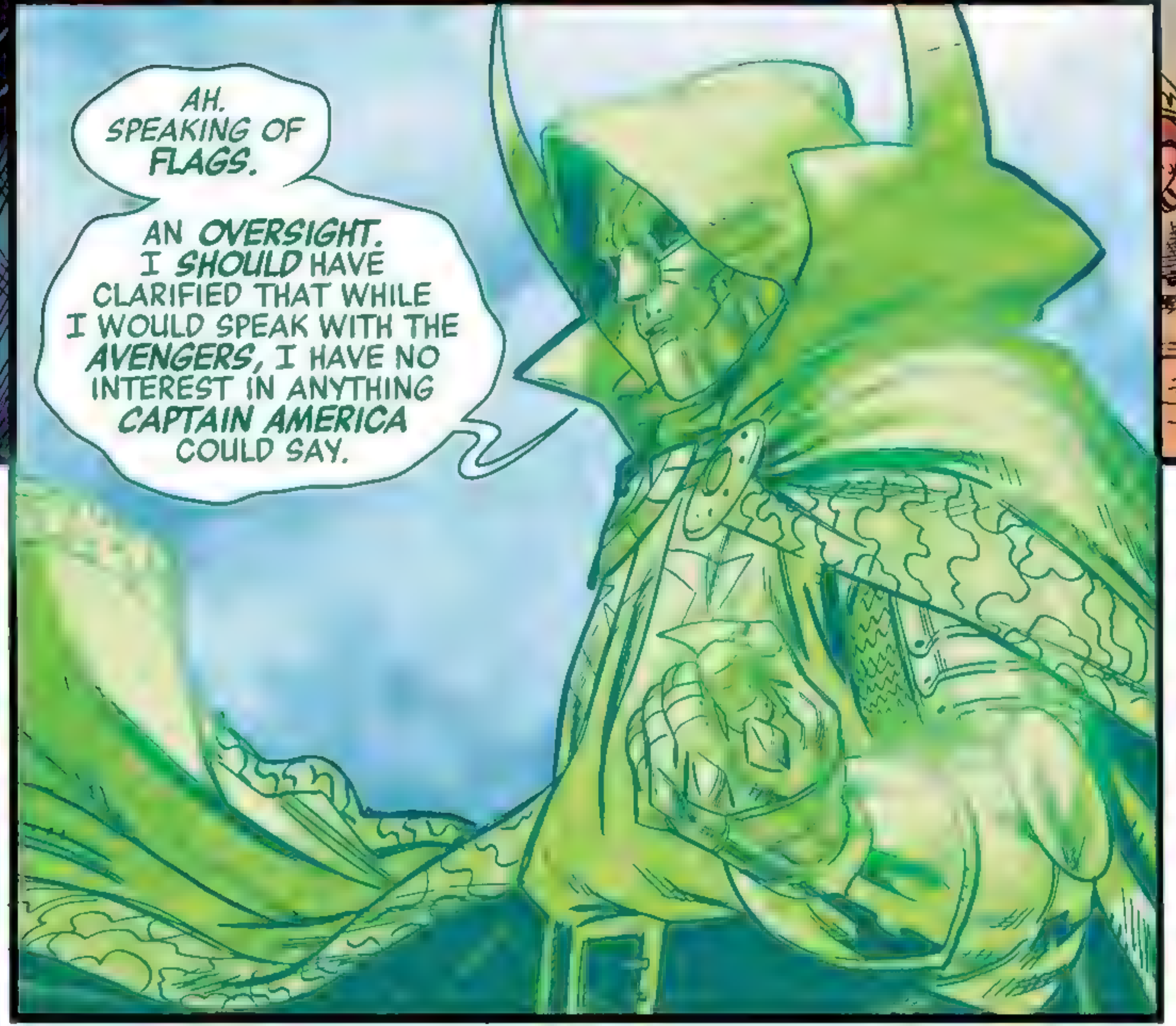
WHY
HAVE **YOU**, THE
MOST POWERFUL,
ALLOWED THIS
TO HAPPEN?



"INJUSTICE."

COMING
FROM **DOCTOR**
DOOM.

PRETTY
RICH.



AH.
SPEAKING OF
FLAGS.

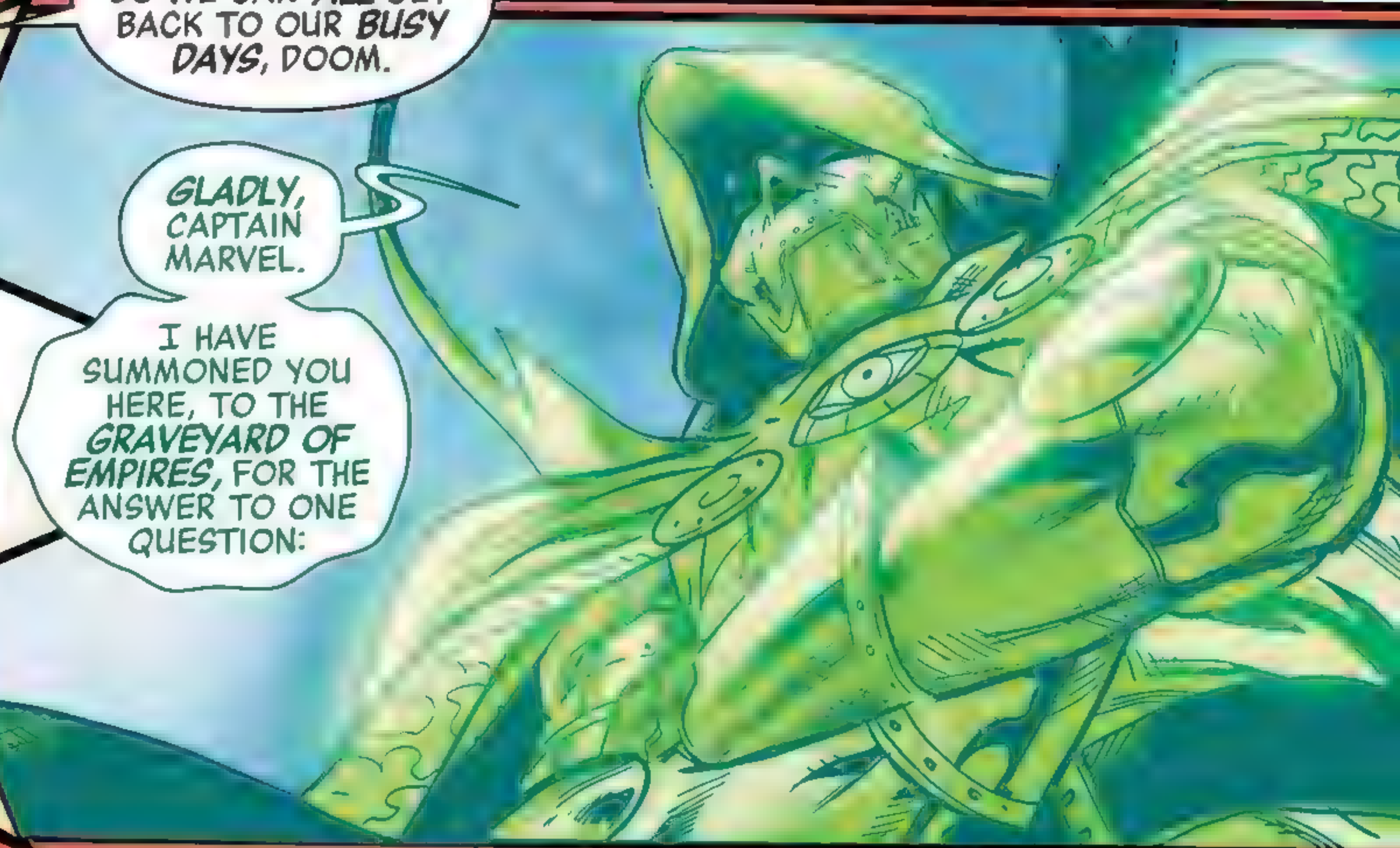
AN **OVERSIGHT**.
I **SHOULD** HAVE
CLARIFIED THAT WHILE
I WOULD SPEAK WITH THE
AVENGERS, I HAVE NO
INTEREST IN ANYTHING
CAPTAIN AMERICA
COULD SAY.



WHY DON'T
YOU **SPIT IT OUT**
SO WE CAN ALL GET
BACK TO OUR **BUSY**
DAYS, **DOOM**.

GLADLY,
CAPTAIN
MARVEL.

I HAVE
SUMMONED YOU
HERE, TO THE
GRAVEYARD OF
EMPIRES, FOR THE
ANSWER TO ONE
QUESTION:



WHY HAVE
YOU NOT TAKEN
THIS WORLD IN HAND
AND SET THINGS
RIGHT?





WHAT
ARMY COULD
STAND AGAINST
YOU?

WHAT WEAPONS
COULD THE NATIONS
OF EARTH BRING TO BEAR
AGAINST YOUR POWER,
YOUR CUNNING,
YOUR SKILL?

EACH OF
YOU IS MORE
THAN A MATCH
FOR ANY
NATION!



SEVEN OF
YOU TOGETHER,
MORE THAN A
MATCH FOR
THE WORLD!

WHAT
STAYS
YOUR HAND,
AVENGERS?

IS IT A LACK
OF *CHARACTER*, THE
CLOAK OF *COWARDICE*
THAT YOU CALL
MORALITY?



OR IS IT A
FATAL LACK OF
IMAGINATION,
UNABLE TO CONCEIVE
OF A BETTER
WORLD?



PERHAPS
THE *LATTER*.

PERHAPS
I SHOULD
SHOW YOU WHAT
COULD BE.

"A CAPTAIN NOT OF
A DECREPIT UNION,
A DYING IMPERIAL
POWER..."

"...BUT OF
A UNIFIED
WORLD."



"AND ANOTHER
CAPTAIN, NOW
TRULY A MARVEL."

"REPRESENTING A WORLD
BROUGHT **TOGETHER**,
READY TO TAKE ITS PLACE
ON THE GALACTIC
STAGE AMONG **EQUALS**."



"A FLAWED GENIUS,
FINALLY FREE OF
WEAPONS."

"CONSIGNING BOTH *HIS* AND THE
WORLD'S ADDICTION TO WAR
TO THE SCRAP HEAP OF *HISTORY*."



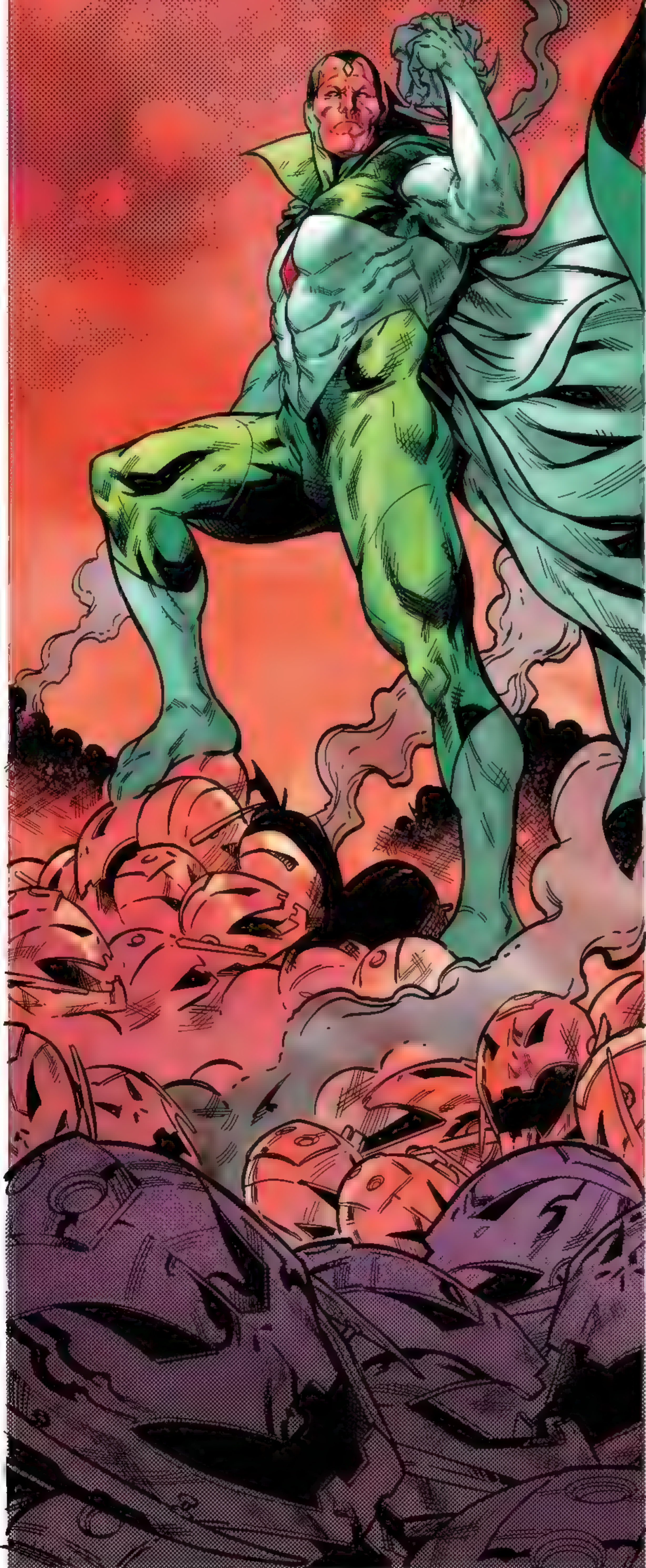
"A GODDESS."

"FINALLY DOING FOR
HER PEOPLE WHAT ALL
THE *AVENGERS* AND
X-MEN COULD NOT--
SECURING THE *FUTURE*
OF *MUTANTS*."



"THE GREATEST OF ALL
ARTIFICIAL LIFE-FORMS,
FREED FROM THE IMPOSITION
OF HUMAN MORALITY.

"FREE TO BURN THE
SCOURGE OF HIS
ANCESTRY FROM THE
FACE OF THE WORLD,
NO MATTER THE COST.



"AND THE
'HERO TO THE
HOPELESS.'

"FINALLY LIVING UP TO HER
NAME. FINALLY EXERCISING
THE POWER SHE KEEPS SO
IN CHECK WITHOUT FEAR FOR
DAMAGING THE FALSE
STRUCTURES OF THE WORLD.



"A GOOD
WORLD."

"A *RIGHT*
WORLD."

"AN
AVENGERS
WORLD."







YOU ASK
A QUESTION IN
SUCH A WAY THAT THE
ONLY ANSWER POSSIBLE
IS THE ONE YOU
WISH.

BUT THE
ANSWERS **WE**
HAVE ARE NOT THE
ONES **YOU** WOULD
LIKE.



I KNOW
WAR.
I BUILT WAR.
WAS RAISED
ON WAR.

AND IF THE
AVENGERS TRIED
TO TAKE CONTROL
OF THE WORLD, IT
WOULD BE WAR.



WE WOULD HAVE TO
KILL THOUSANDS. **TENS**
OF THOUSANDS.
HUNDREDS.

AND THAT'S
JUST IN THE
OPENING
MOVES.

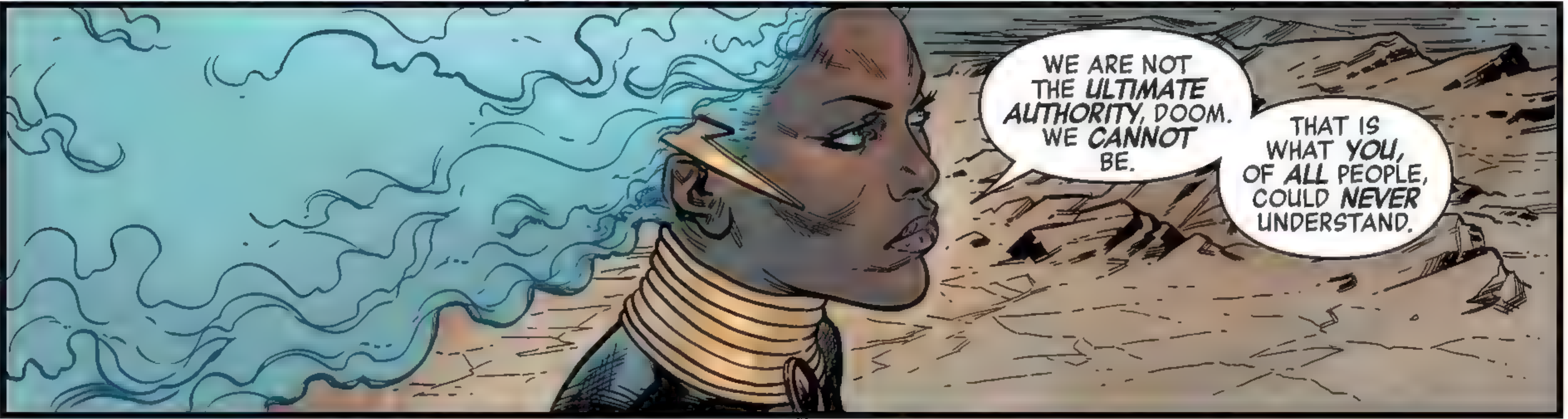


A FINER
WORLD CAN'T
BE CREATED
LIKE THAT.



YOU MAY BE
CORRECT. WE MAY
HAVE THE **POWER**
TO TAKE THE
WORLD.

BUT
NOT THE
RIGHT.



WE ARE NOT
THE **ULTIMATE**
AUTHORITY, DOOM.
WE **CANNOT**
BE.

THAT IS
WHAT YOU,
OF ALL PEOPLE,
COULD **NEVER**
UNDERSTAND.



WE
PROTECT THE
WORLD, DOOM.

PROTECT
IT FROM THE
THINGS THAT
WOULD **END**
IT.

BUT WE
CANNOT FIX IT
UNILATERALLY.

IT
IS NOT A
MACHINE.



WE ARE
PROTECTORS,
NOT TYRANTS.

WE **CANNOT**
IMPOSE OUR WILL
ON BILLIONS
SIMPLY
BECAUSE WE ARE
STRONG. BECAUSE WE
ARE **POWERFUL.**

NOT
WITHOUT
BETRAYING WHAT
THE AVENGERS
ARE.



NO
ONE PERSON
CAN RULE THIS
WORLD.
NO
SEVEN PEOPLE
CAN.

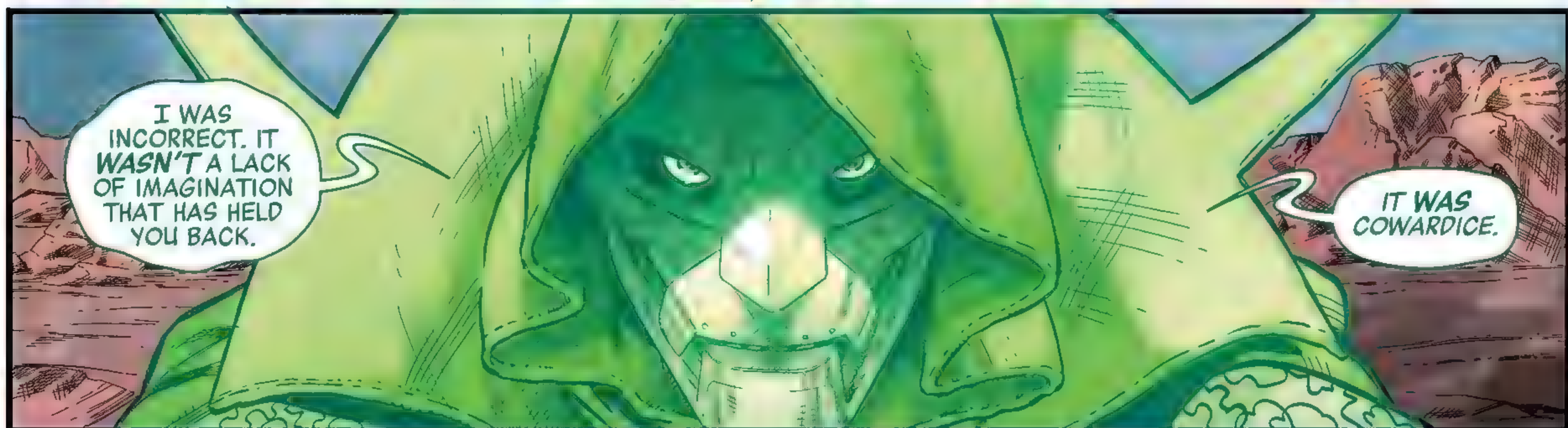
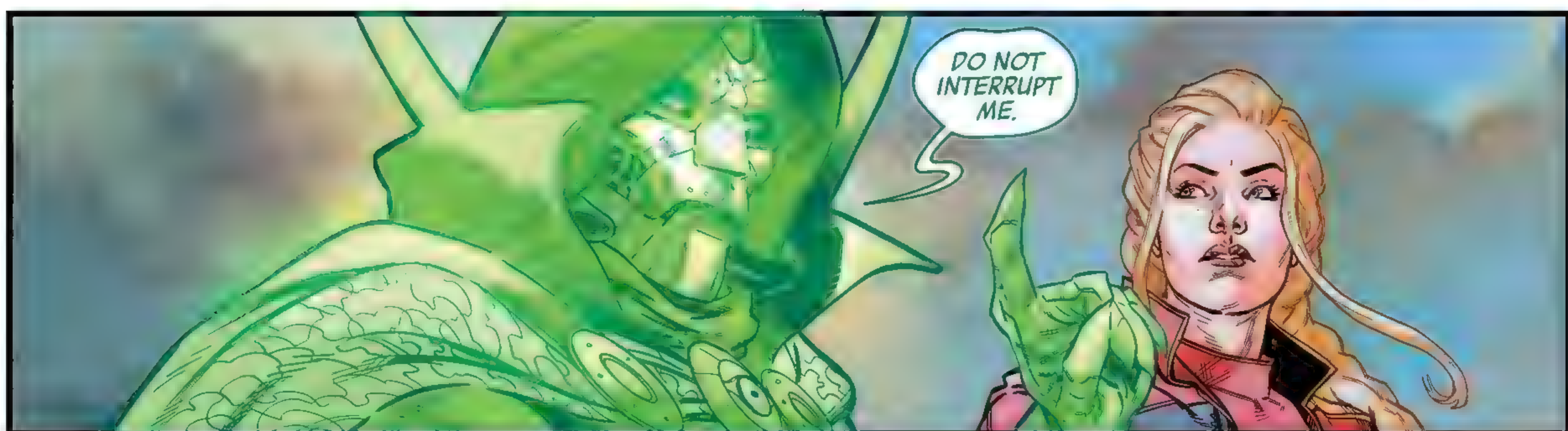
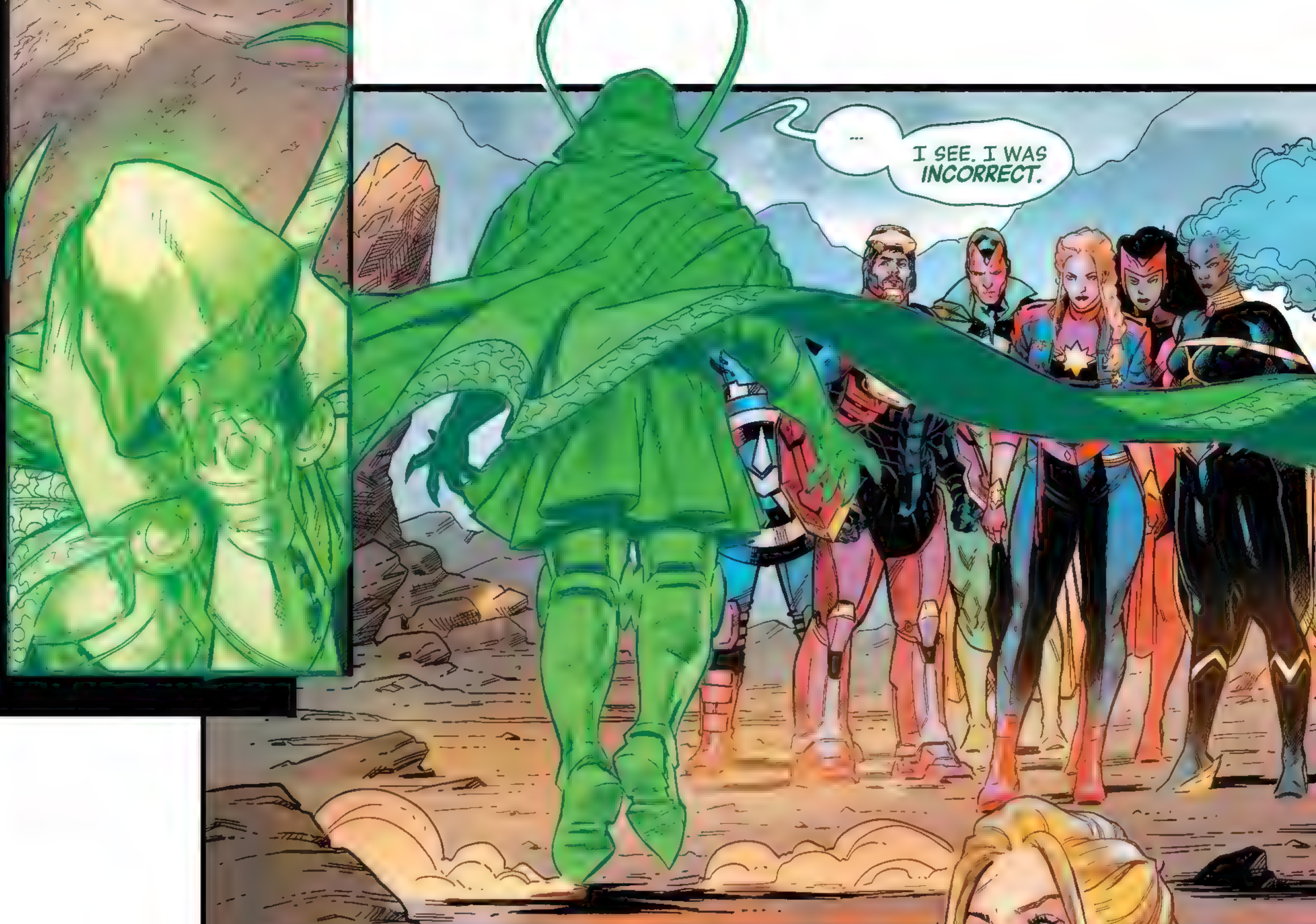
NOT
WELL. NOT
RIGHT.

NOT
WITHOUT
MAKING IT
WORSE THAN
IT ALREADY
IS.



WE WILL
ALWAYS BE
THERE TO SAVE
THE WORLD.

BUT
NOT BY
TAKING AWAY
ITS ABILITY TO
SAVE ITSELF.





YOU, ALL
OF YOU WITH
SUCH POWER...

...YET SO
AFRAID OF
THAT POWER.

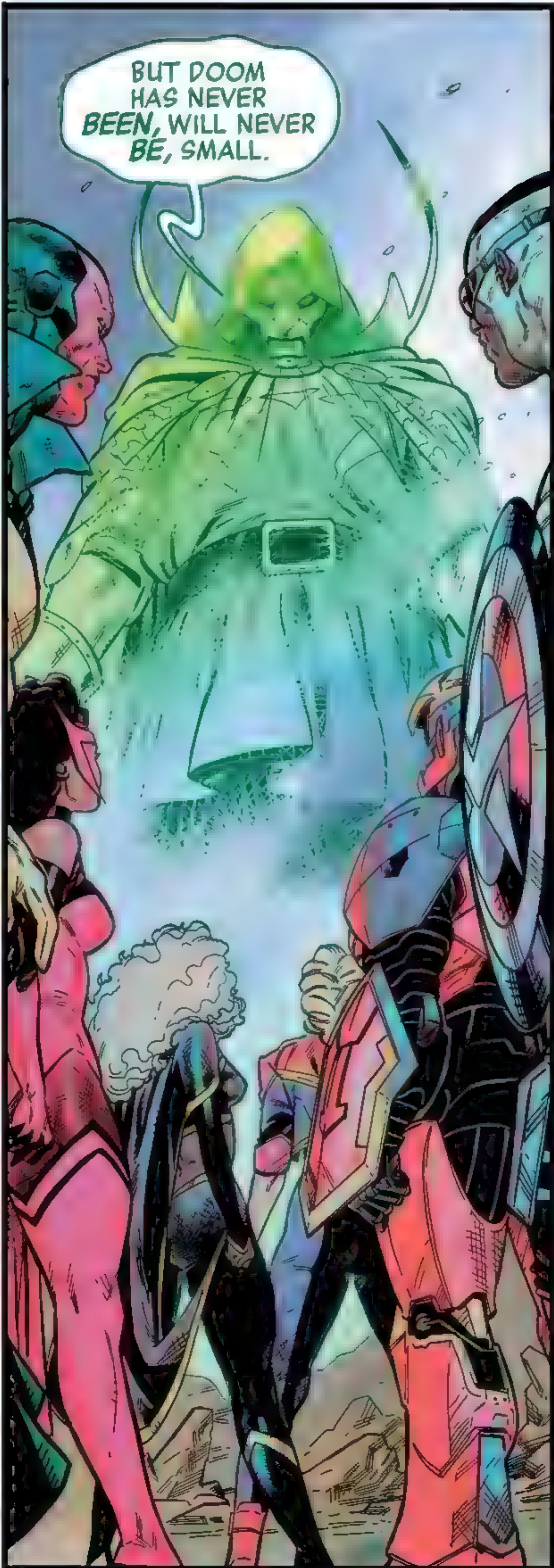


YOU'VE LET
YOUR FEAR
MASTER YOU.

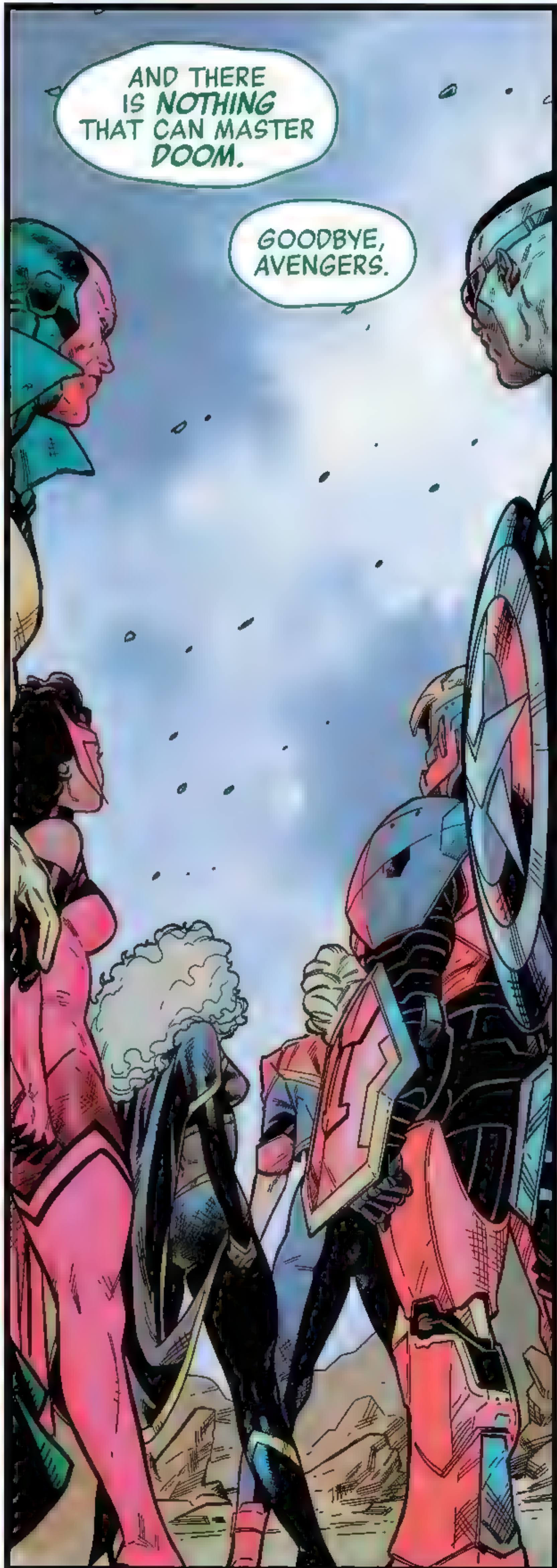
WHEN YOU
SHOULD HAVE
MASTERED
THIS WORLD.



YOU LET
YOUR FEAR
MAKE YOU
SMALL.



BUT DOOM
HAS NEVER
BEEN, WILL NEVER
BE, SMALL.



AND THERE
IS **NOTHING**
THAT CAN MASTER
DOOM.

GOODBYE,
AVENGERS.



LATER.

SO I MIGHT BE CRAZY...

...BUT I DON'T THINK WE CHANGED HIS MIND?

NO, TONY, I DON'T THINK YOU ARE CRAZY, AND I DON'T THINK WE DID.

THERE WAS NEVER A CHANCE OF THAT. THAT WASN'T WHAT TODAY WAS ABOUT.

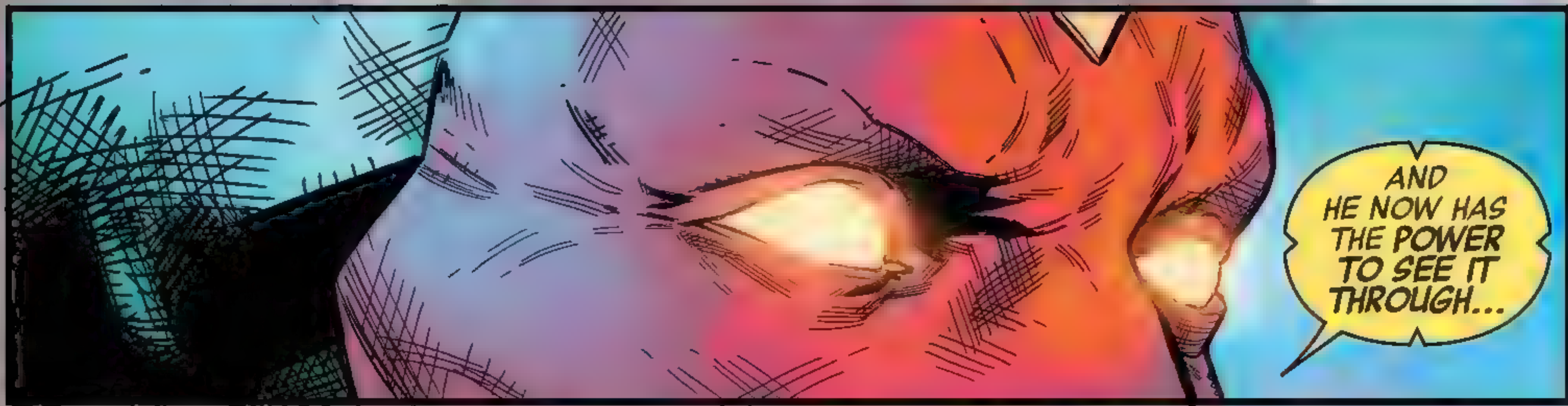


THE PURPOSE OF DOOM'S LITTLE DEMONSTRATION WAS NOT TO CHANGE OUR MINDS OR HIS.

IT WAS A THOUGHT EXERCISE. WE WERE PROPS, HIS DEVIL'S ADVOCATES.

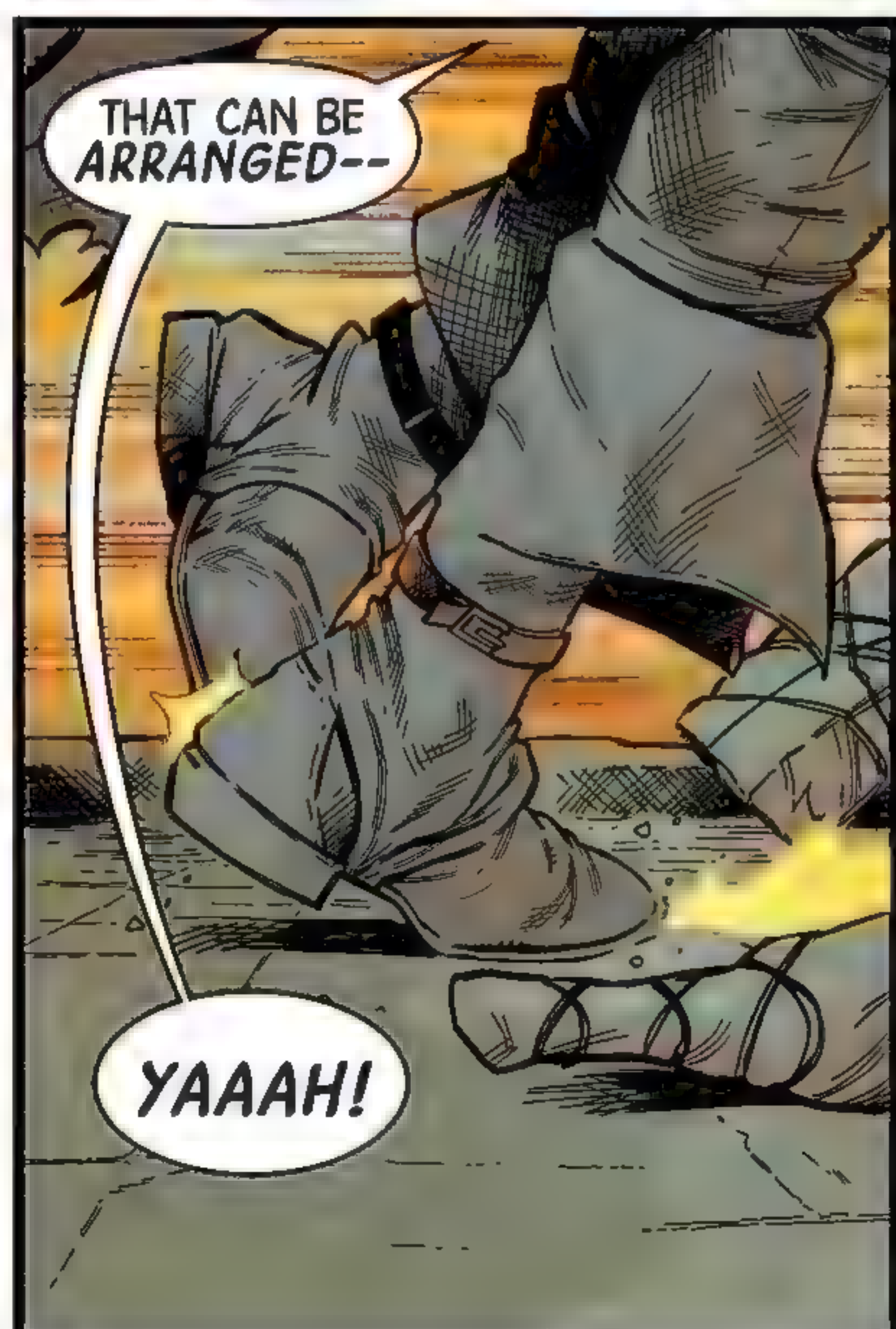
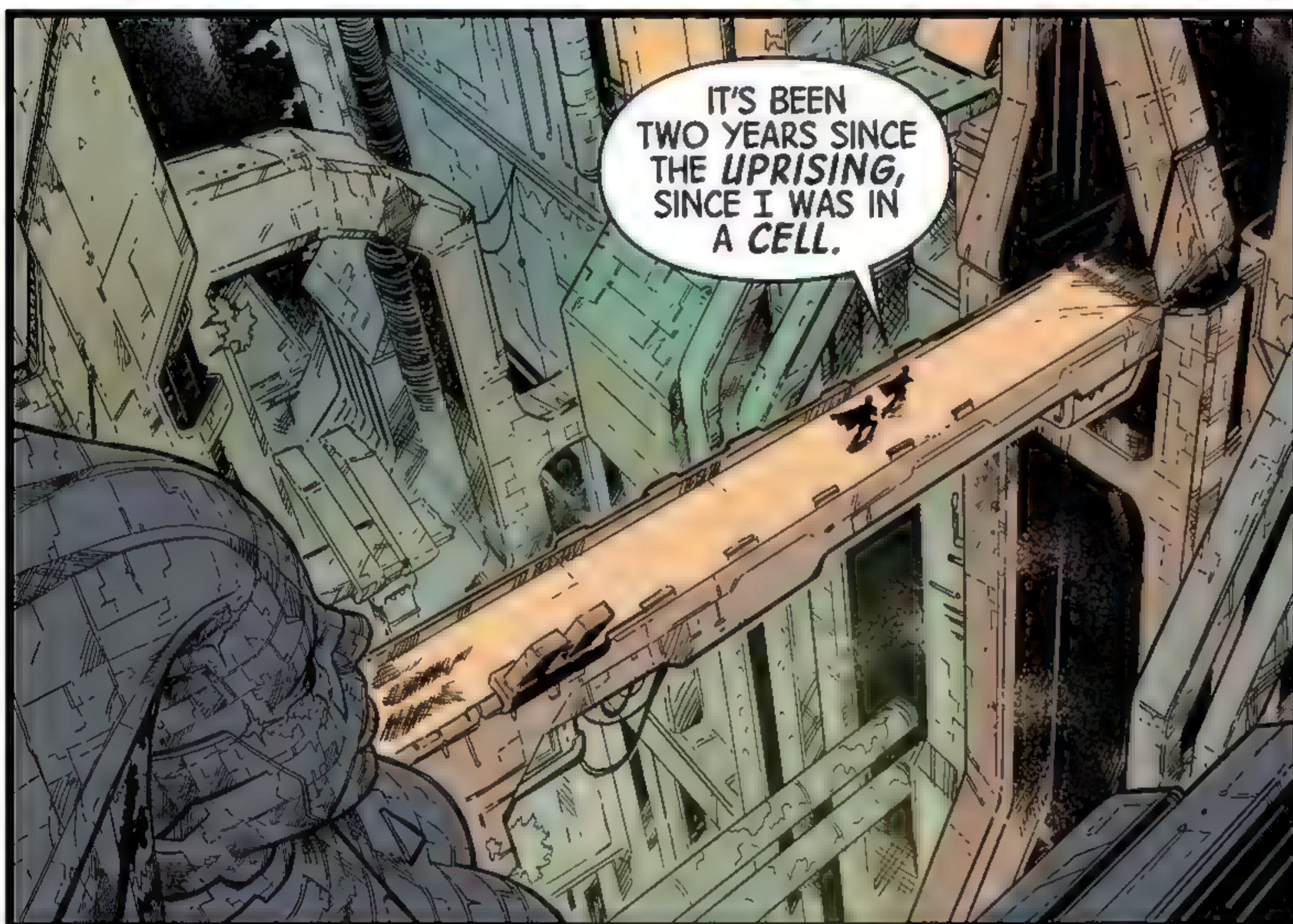
OUR ONLY PURPOSE WAS TO AID HIM IN TROUBLESHOOTING HIS OWN THINKING. TO ALLOW HIM TO REINFORCE HIS OWN IDEAS, THE RIGHTNESS OF THEM.

HE BELIEVES THAT HE MUST DO WHAT WE WILL NOT.



AND HE NOW HAS THE POWER TO SEE IT THROUGH...





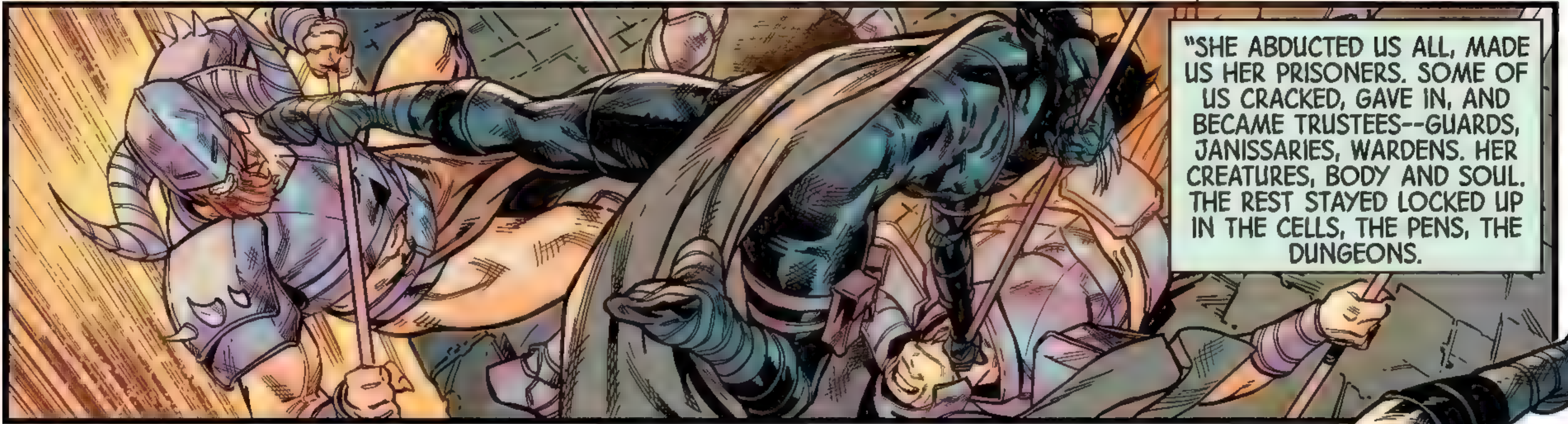


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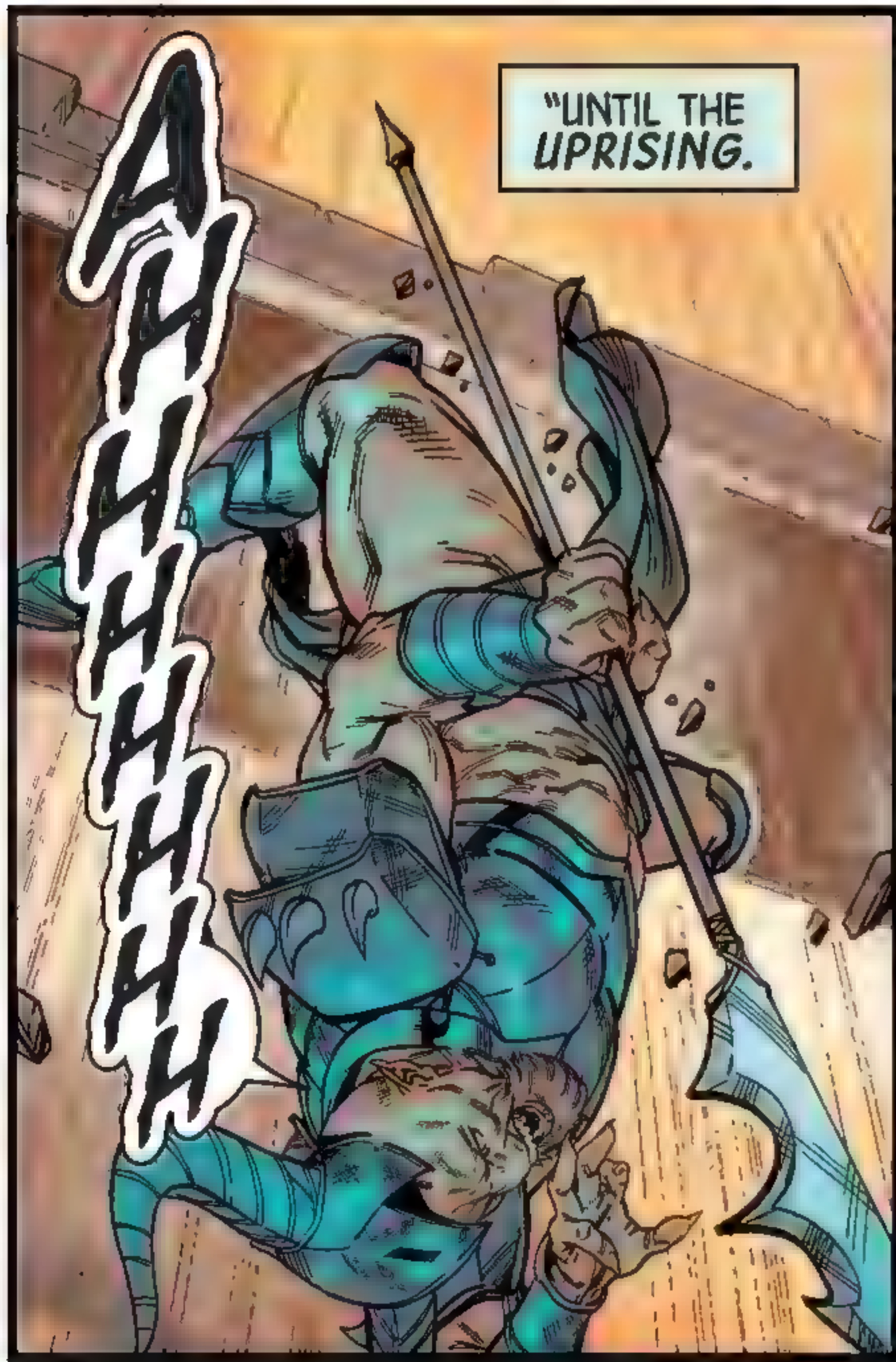


"THE THING YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND IS, BEFORE THE UPRISING, THERE WAS ONE POWER IN HERE.

"MERIDIAN DIADEM.



"SHE ABDUCTED US ALL, MADE US HER PRISONERS. SOME OF US CRACKED, GAVE IN, AND BECAME TRUSTEES--GUARDS, JANISSARIES, WARDENS. HER CREATURES, BODY AND SOUL. THE REST STAYED LOCKED UP IN THE CELLS, THE PENS, THE DUNGEONS.



"UNTIL THE UPRISING.



"ONE DAY, MERIDIAN DIADEM WENT SILENT.

"THERE WAS NO ONE TO GIVE THE TRUSTEES THEIR ORDERS. NO ONE TO RUN THE PRISONS. NO ONE IN CHARGE.



"THAT WAS WHEN WE, THE PRISONERS, FOUGHT BACK.

"THAT WAS THE
UPRISING.



"AND THAT WAS
OVER TWO
YEARS AGO."

LATER.

HM.

BUT IT
HAS ONLY BEEN
MONTHS SINCE THE
AVENGERS DEFEATED
MERIDIAN DIADEM AND
THE REST OF THE
ASHEN COMBINE.

WHATEVER
YOU SAY,
OUTSIDER.

TIME MOVES
MORE QUICKLY
IN HERE.

WE THINK
IT WAS SO
MERIDIAN DIADEM
COULD CONVERT
PRISONERS INTO
TRUSTEES MORE
QUICKLY.

THE
TRUSTEES.

THEY
ARE STILL
ACTIVE?

THERE USED TO BE
ONE POWER IN
HERE. NOW
THERE'S **TWO**.

THERE'S THE
LOYALISTS, THE
TRUSTEES AND ANYONE
ELSE WHO STILL WORSHIPS
MERIDIAN DIADEM IN
HER ABSENCE...

...AND THEN
THERE'S THE **FREE**
GANGS.

"WHEN THE UPRISING
KICKED OFF, WE COULD
HAVE **WON**."

"THERE WERE MORE OF
US THAN THERE WERE OF
THEM, AND THEY WEREN'T
USED TO THINKING WITHOUT
MERIDIAN DIADEM."



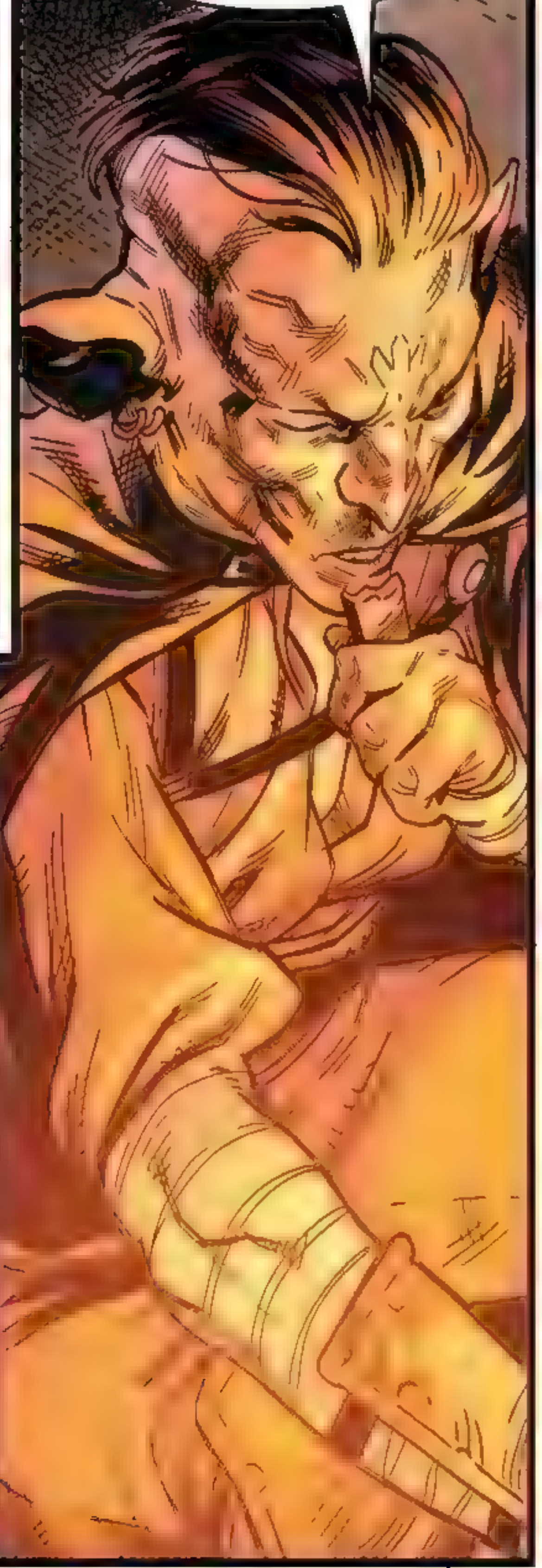
"BUT WE **STALLED**. BROKE INTO **FACTIONS**, EACH WITH A BOSS WANTING TO BE IN **CHARGE**."



"STARTED FIGHTING **EACH OTHER** INSTEAD OF THE LOYALISTS."

WE COULD HAVE **WON**. WE COULD HAVE MADE THIS **PRISON** INTO A PLACE WE COULD ALL **LIVE**.

BUT THE LOYALISTS GOT AWAY, **FORTIFIED**. TOOK CONTROL OF **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**, LIKE THE FOOD DISPENSERS IN THIS ZONE.



AND WITH THE **FREE GANGS** AT ODDS WITH EACH OTHER, IT'S GOING TO **STAY** THAT WAY.



THE NEXT DAY.

SO YOU
AND YOUR...
AVENGERS? YOU
PUT MERIDIAN
DIADEM INTO
STASIS?

YES. HER
AND THE REST OF
THE ASHEN COMBINE.
THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY
HAS JOINED **OUR**
CAUSE.

AND NOW
I'VE COME TO
SEE WHAT WE CAN
DO TO HELP
YOU.

WE CAN
EVACUATE YOU
FROM HERE, PERHAPS
FIND SOME WAY TO
RETURN YOU
HOME--

FORGET
IT.

WHY DO
YOU THINK WE'RE
ALL FIGHTING FOR
CONTROL OF THIS
PLACE AND NOT
TRYING TO
ESCAPE IT?

WE **CAN'T**
LEAVE. **NONE** OF
US CAN.

EVERY
PRISONER CAPTURED
WAS **BIOLOGICALLY**
ALTERED TO BE
DEPENDENT ON THE
BIOME HERE.

OUTSIDE?
WITHIN A
WEEK, WE'D BE
DEAD.

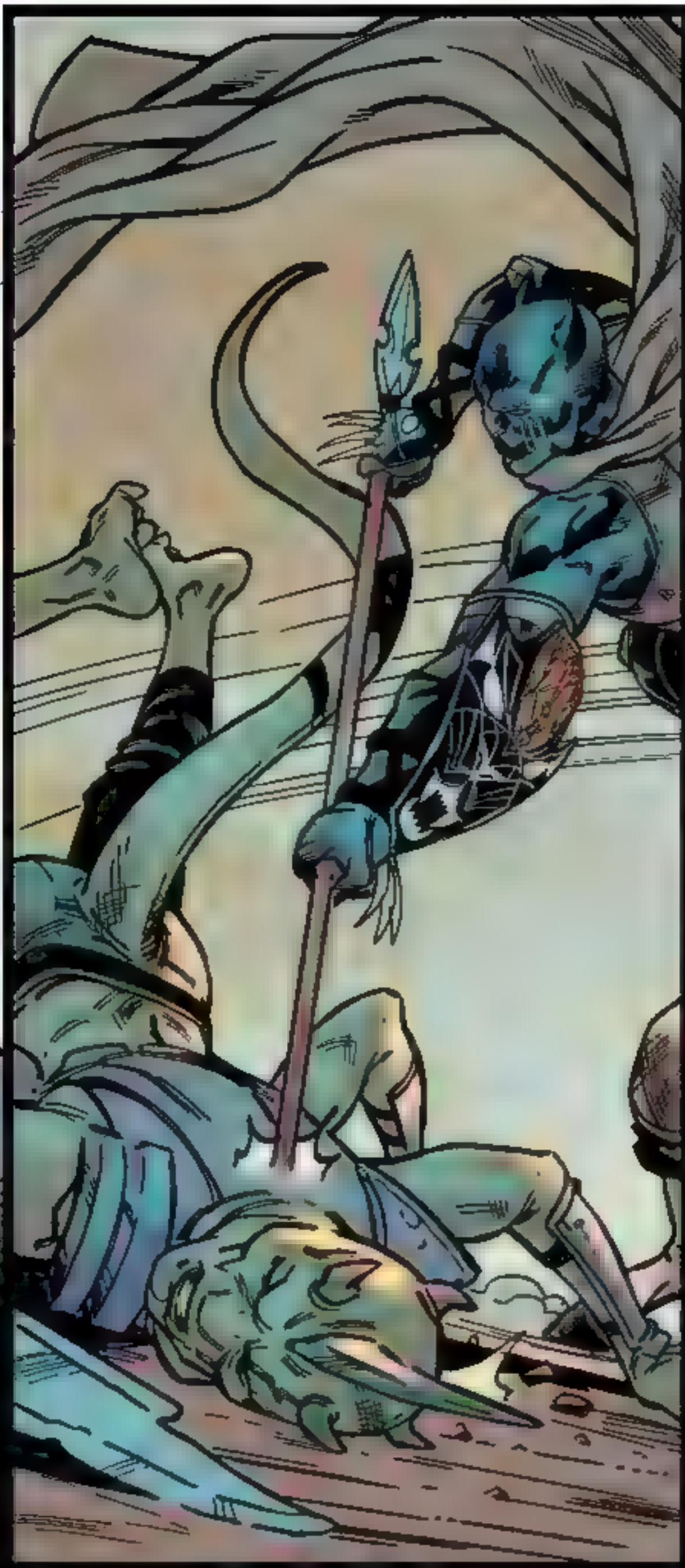
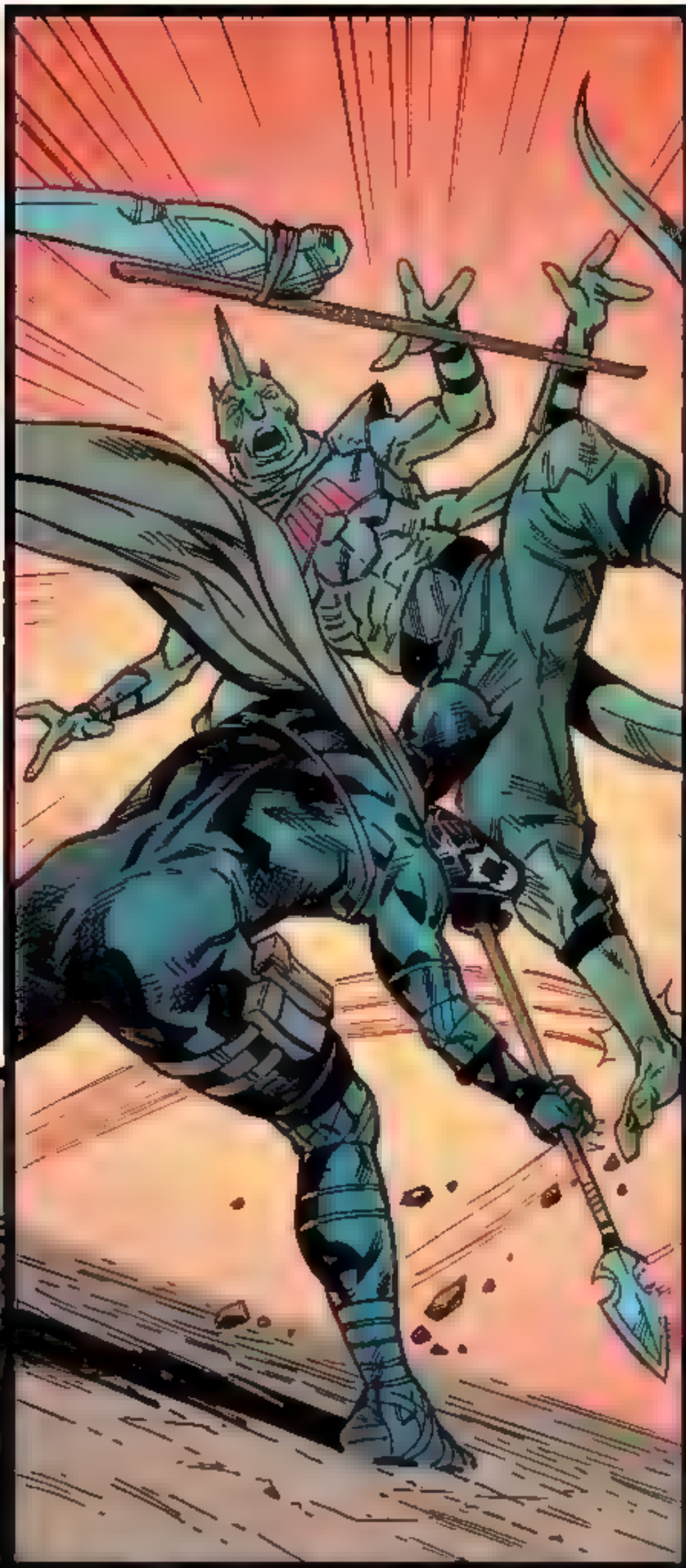
THIS IS THE
ONLY PLACE WE
CAN LIVE, YOU
UNDERSTAND?

THIS IS
THE ONLY PLACE
WE HAVE.



WARD THREE GANG ENCAMPMENT.





NOW.

LET US SEE IF I CAN
REMEMBER THE
LESSONS I WAS TAUGHT
BY THE *GRIOTS*.





THE SONG OF CHALLENGE.

HO! WARD THREE GANG!

THE BLACK PANTHER COMES CALLING!



THE TRICK IS TO FIND THE BALANCE.

T'CHALLA, SON OF T'CHAKA, COMES CALLING!

OUTLANDER, CROWNLESS KING, AVENGER!

WHERE IS YOUR MASTER, DOGS?

WHERE IS YOUR MASTER?



FOR YOUR STRENGTH TO ROAR LIKE A LION.

FOR YOUR MOCKERY TO LAUGH LIKE A HYENA.

SEND THEM OUT! SEND THEM OUT!

THE PANTHER HAS COME CALLING, TO ISSUE CHALLENGE!

IS THERE ANY HERE WHO THINKS THEMSELF THE PANTHER'S EQUAL?



TO BE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO MAKE YOUR CHALLENGE REAL, TO BE CRUEL ENOUGH TO GOAD THE RESPONSE YOU WISH.

HA!



A CHALLENGE.

FROM A...WHAT, A MUSICIAN? A CLOWN?

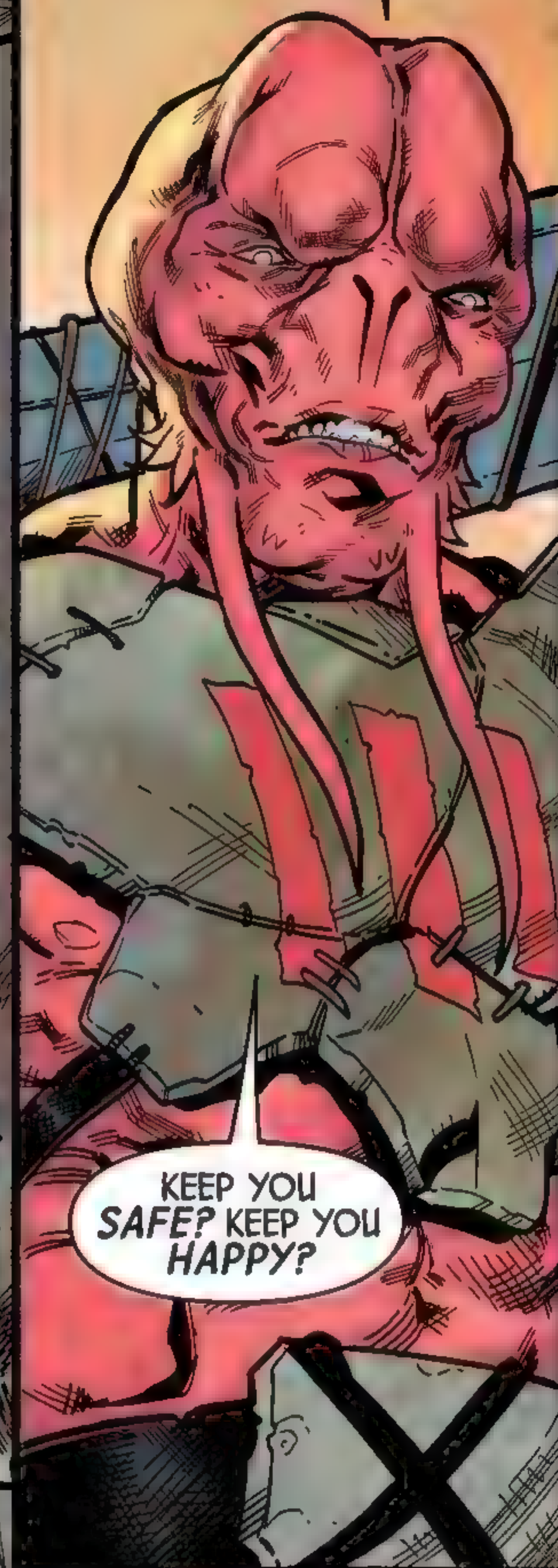
A PANTHER.

I'VE COME TO RAISE YOUR GANG UP, IN MY LOVE AND MERCY.

YOUR FOLLOWERS ARE **WASTED** UPON YOU. UNDER MY SPEAR, THEY WILL BE MADE **TRUE WARRIORS** AND GRANTED THE GIFT AND HONOR OF BEING THE **FIRST** OF MY FIGHTERS.

HA! WHAT DOES **MY GANG** WANT A **NEW LEADER** FOR?

I KEEP YOU **FED**, DON'T I, WARD THREE?



KEEP YOU **SAFE**? KEEP YOU **HAPPY**?



YOU SUBJUGATE THE **WEAK**, THE **SCAVENGERS**.

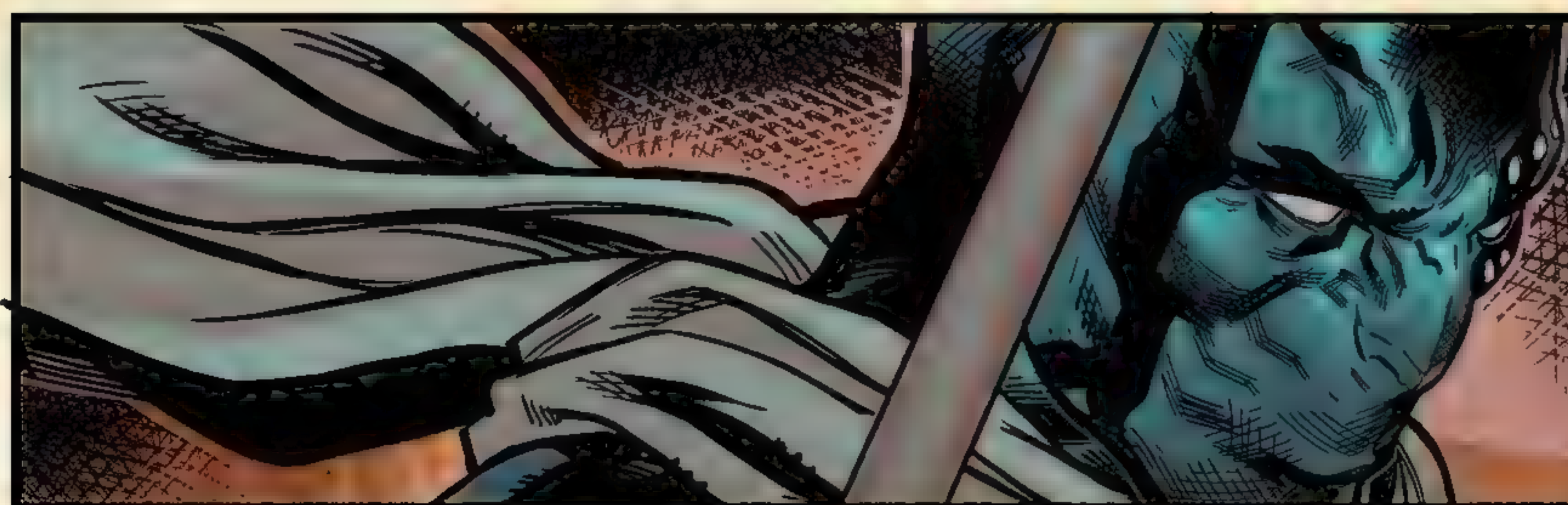
YOU ARE NO BETTER THAN **LOYALISTS**.

WORSE:

THE **LOYALISTS** ARE YOUR **BETTERS** IN **EVERY WAY**.



BECAUSE THE **LOYALISTS** WILL AT LEAST FIGHT FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVE IN.



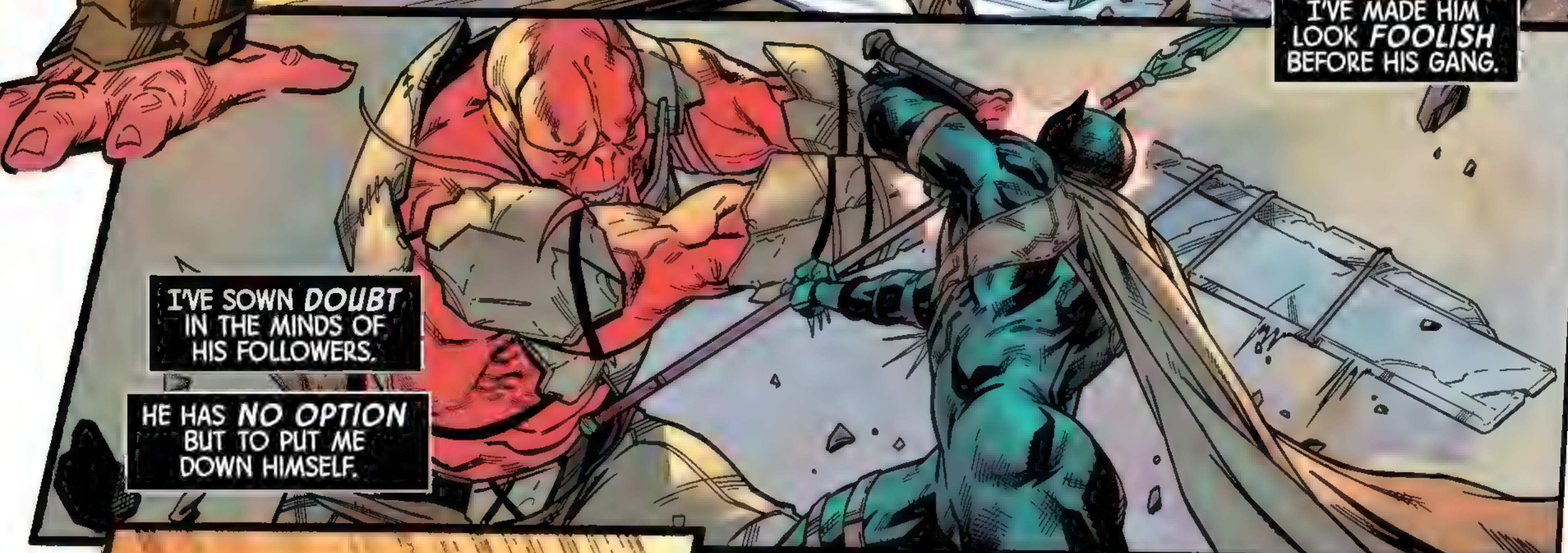
AFTER ALL, **THAT'S WHY THEY** CONTROL THE **FOOD DISPENSERS** IN THIS **ZONE**, AND **YOU** STEAL FROM **SCAVENGERS**...



...ISNT
IT?

EXACTLY
AS PLANNED.

I'VE MADE HIM
LOOK FOOLISH
BEFORE HIS GANG.



I'VE SOWN DOUBT
IN THE MINDS OF
HIS FOLLOWERS.

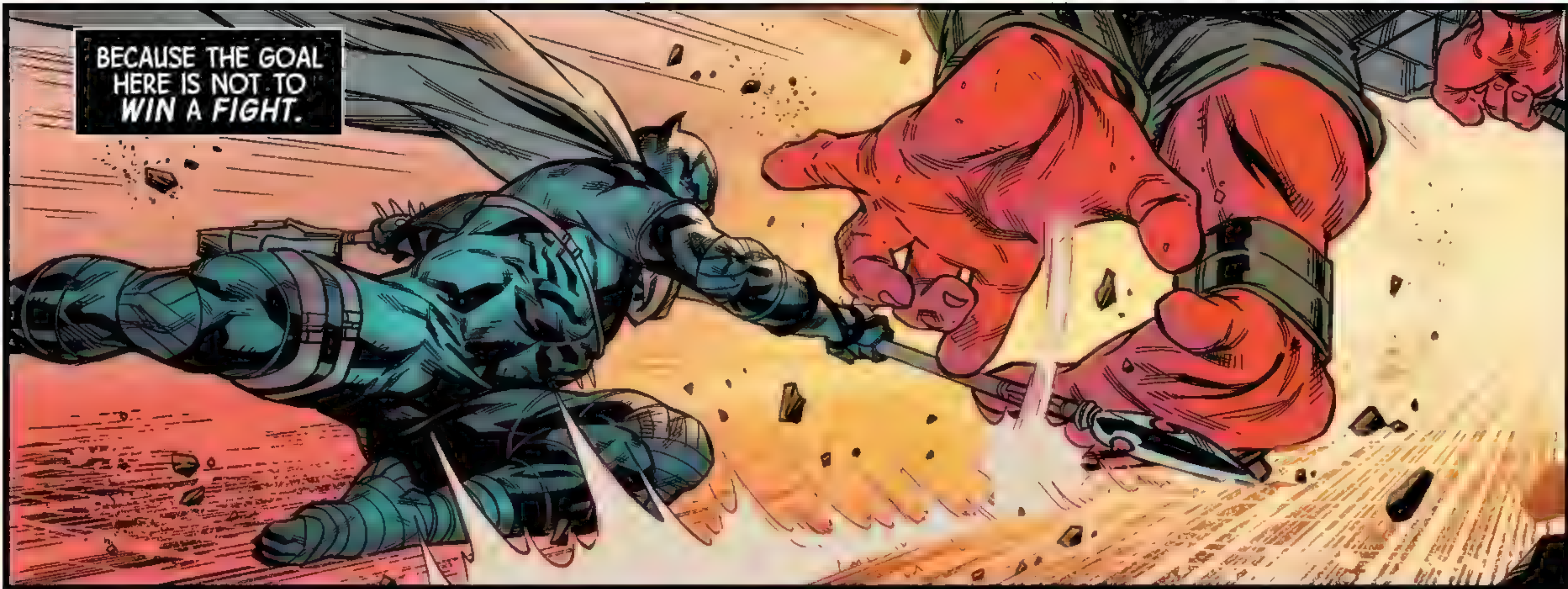
HE HAS NO OPTION
BUT TO PUT ME
DOWN HIMSELF.



NOW, THE
FIGHT.



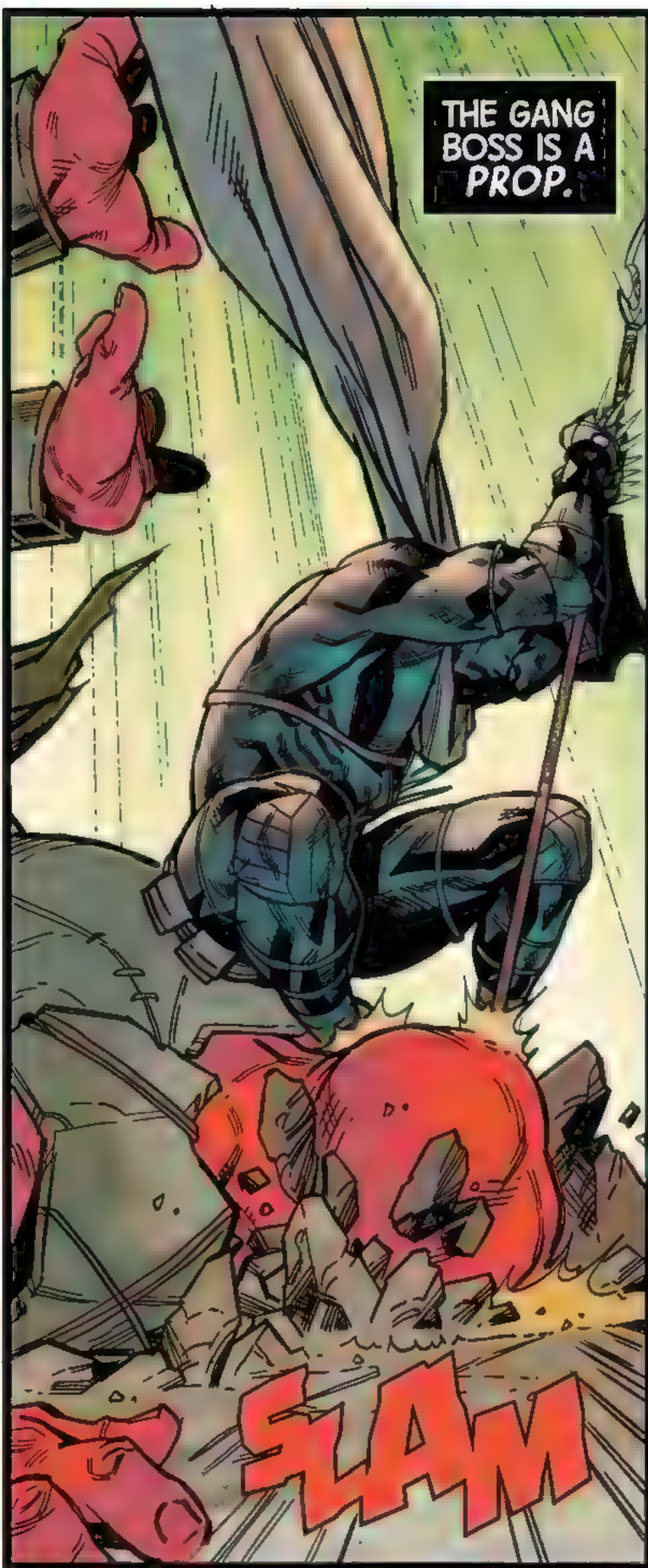
ONE
FINAL ACT OF
THEATER.



BECAUSE THE GOAL
HERE IS NOT TO
WIN A FIGHT.



IT IS
TO WIN
HEARTS.

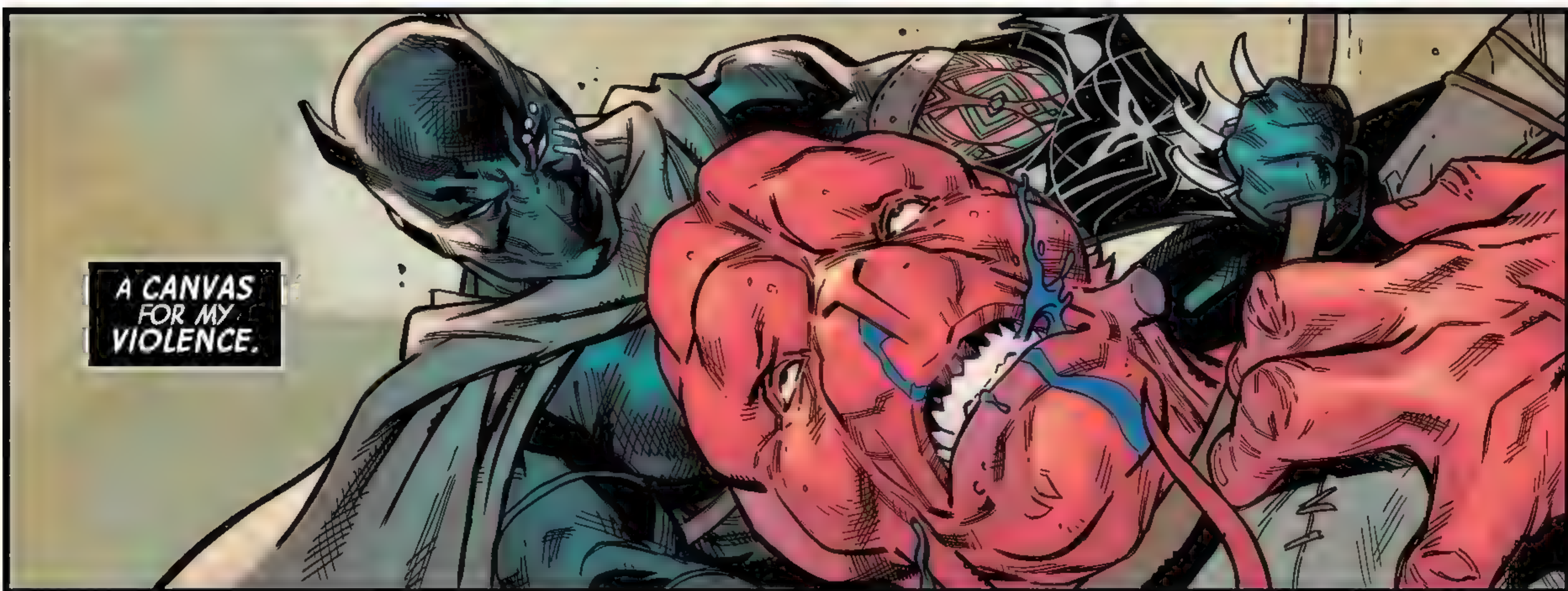


THE GANG
BOSS IS A
PROP.

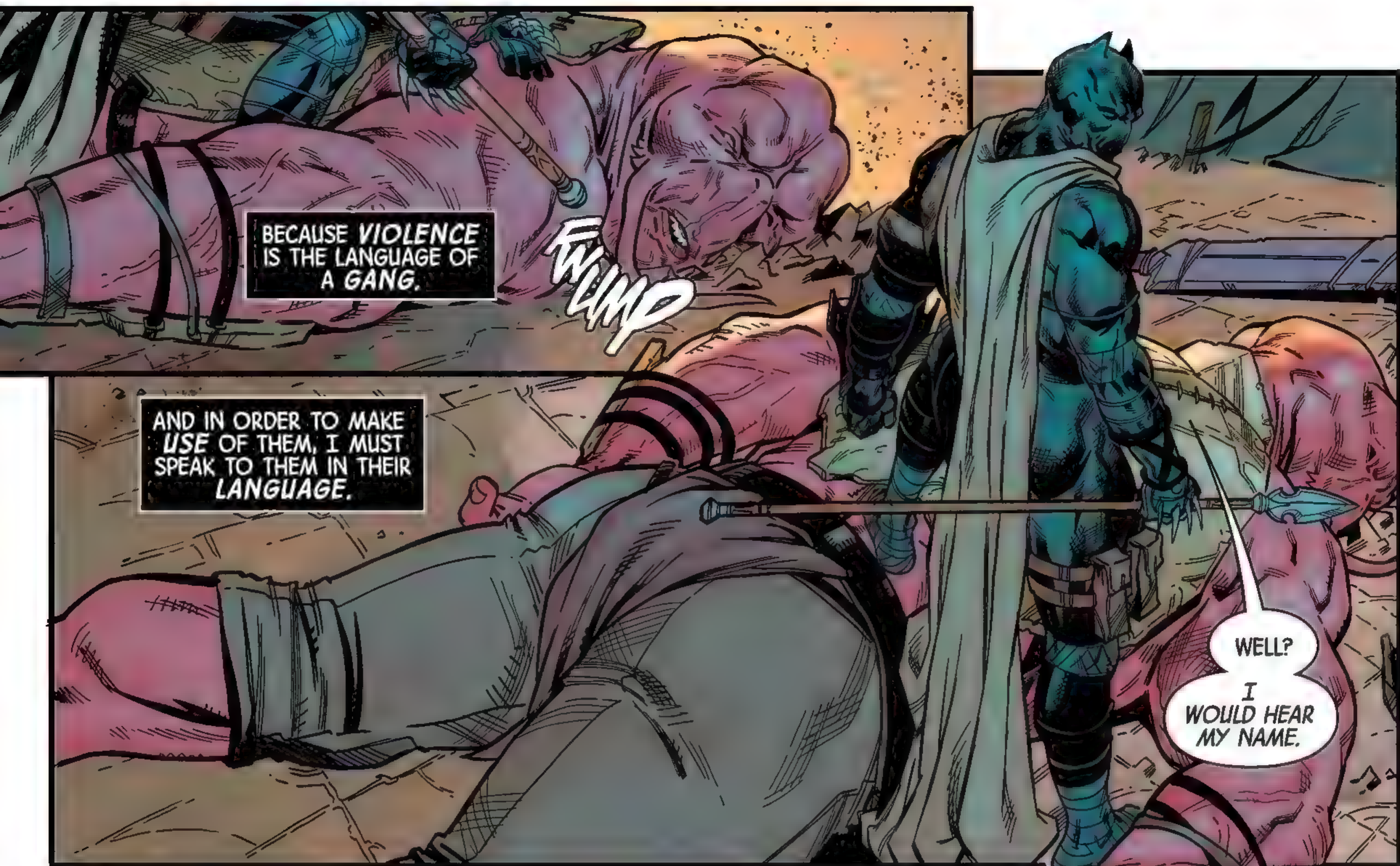
SLAM



AN AID TO A
PERFORMANCE,
NOTHING MORE.



A CANVAS
FOR MY
VIOLENCE.





WELL.

YOU
HAVE A
GANG.

I HAVE
MY FIRST
GANG.



SURE.

BUT IT
DOESN'T
MAKE **SENSE**
TO ME.

WHY DON'T
YOU GO GET THE REST
OF YOUR **AVENGERS**? IF
YOU ALL TOOK DOWN THE
ASHEN COMBINE, THEN YOU
COULD ROLL UP THE
LOYALISTS IN NO
TIME.



YOU ARE
CORRECT.

BUT THE
LOYALISTS
ARE NOT THE
PROBLEM.



IF THE
AVENGERS REMOVED
THE LOYALISTS
TOMORROW, YOU
WOULD **STILL** BE
WHAT YOU ARE.

FRACTIONAL
GANGS FIGHTING
AND KILLING AND
EXPLOITING ONE
ANOTHER.



YOU ARE **ALL**
PEOPLE STOLEN
FROM HUNDREDS
OF DIFFERENT
WORLDS.

YOU HAVE
BEEN SUBJECTED TO
TERRIBLE EXPLOITATION
AND TRAUMA.

HORRIBLE
THINGS HAVE BEEN
DONE TO YOU.

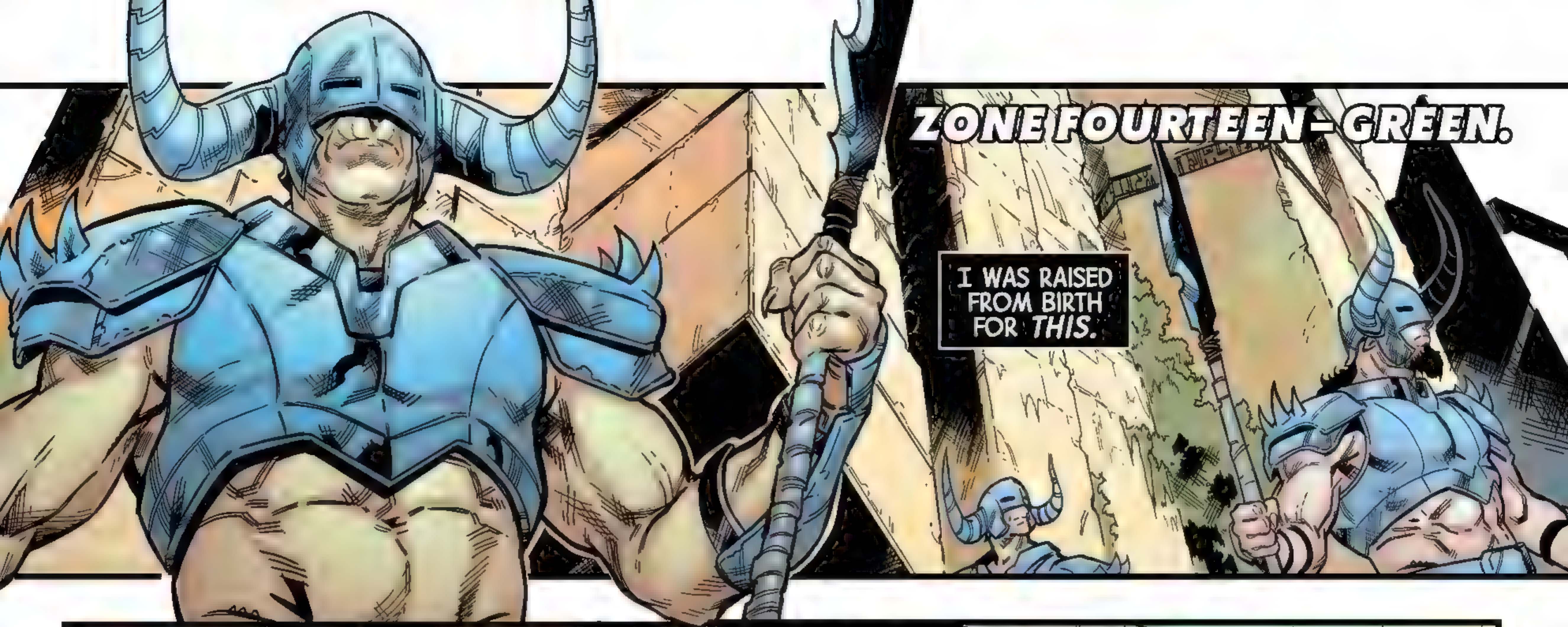


BUT, LIKE
IT OR NOT,
YOU ARE **ONE**
PEOPLE
NOW.

ONE
PEOPLE, WITH
ONE HOME
YOU MUST
LIVE IN.

IN ORDER
TO DEFEAT THE
LOYALISTS AND
MAKE THIS A
HOME...

...THE **FREE**
GANGS ARE
GOING TO HAVE TO
COME TOGETHER
UNDER **ONE**
SPEAR.



ZONE FOURTEEN - GREEN.

I WAS RAISED
FROM BIRTH
FOR *THIS*.



TO BE THE
ULTIMATE OPERATIVE
OF MY NATION.

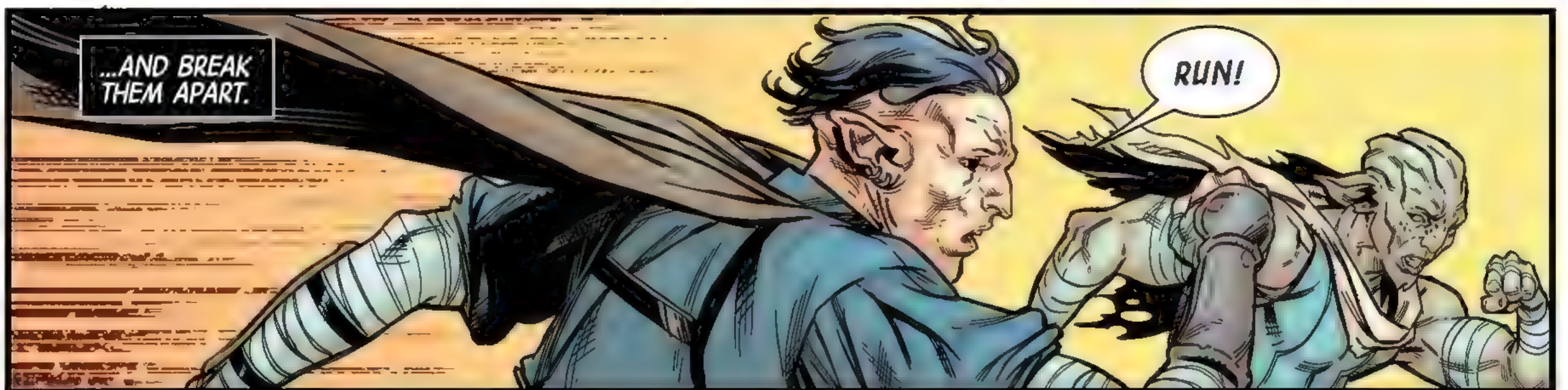
...GOT
TO BE
CRAZY
TO
COME BACK
HERE...



TO FIND THE **WEAKNESSES**
OF MY ENEMIES, BE THEY AN
INDIVIDUAL OR A **NATION**...

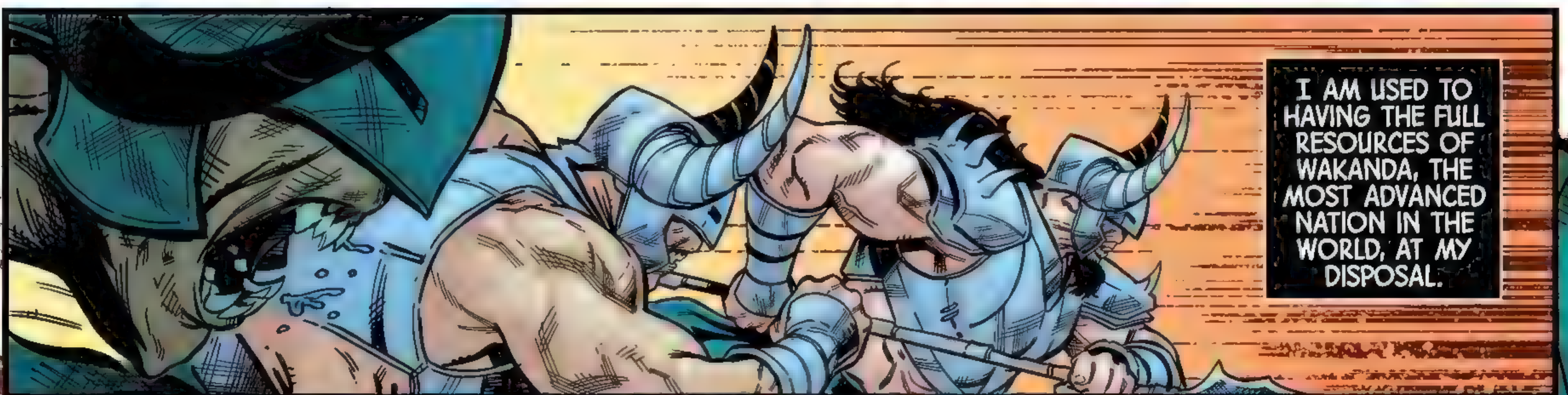
...AFTER...
LAST
TIME...

OH
NO.



...AND **BREAK**
THEM APART.

RUN!



I AM USED TO
HAVING THE FULL
RESOURCES OF
WAKANDA, THE
MOST ADVANCED
NATION IN THE
WORLD, AT MY
DISPOSAL.



TO START WITH
NOTHING...

WHUH?



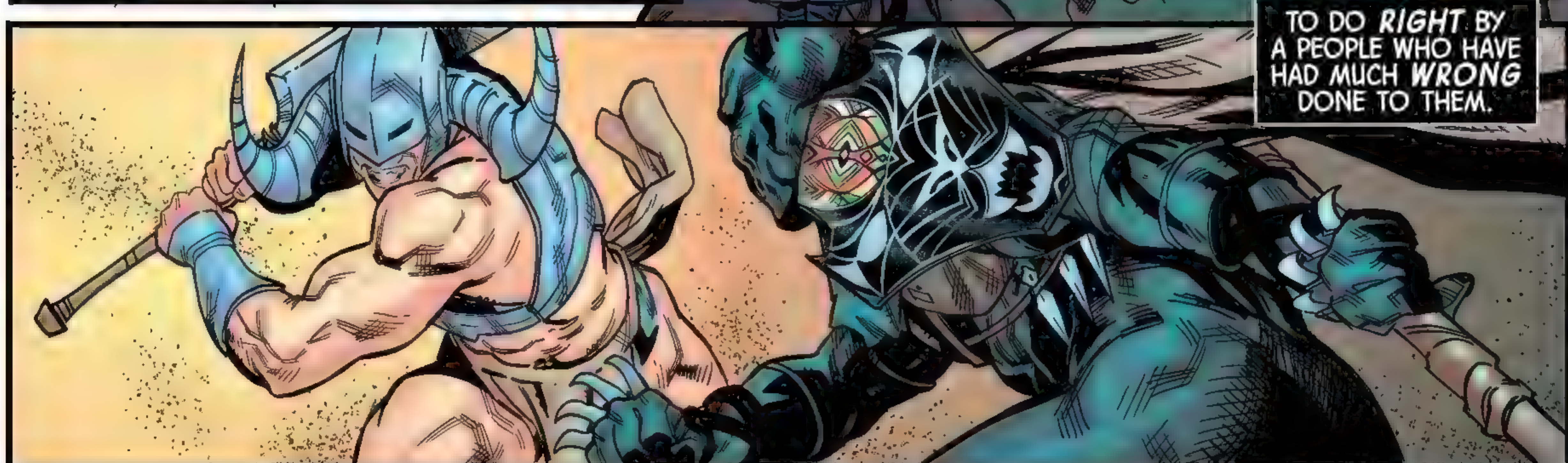
...IS
EXHILARATING.



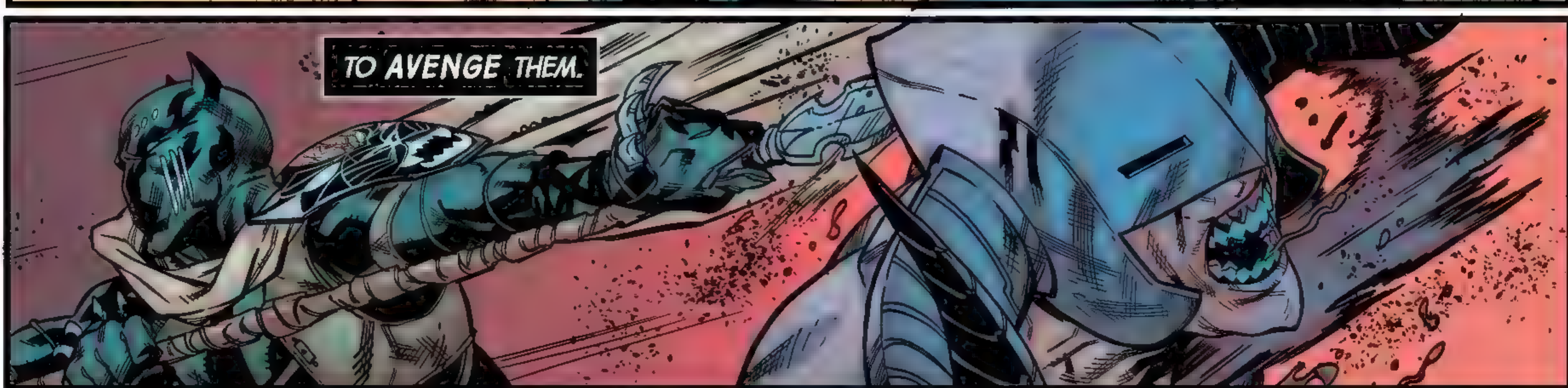
I HAVE A
CHALLENGE
SET OUT
BEFORE ME.



TO UNITE A
PEOPLE, TO TOPPLE
TYRANTS.



TO DO RIGHT BY
A PEOPLE WHO HAVE
HAD MUCH WRONG
DONE TO THEM.



TO AVENGE THEM.



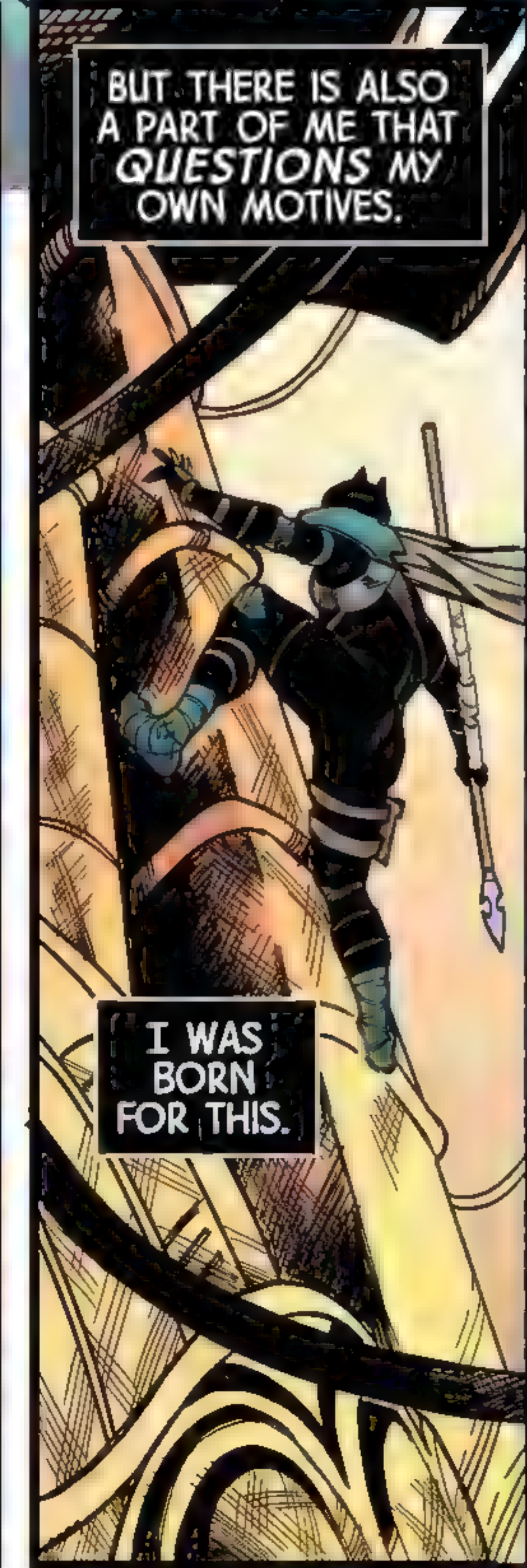
IF I BROUGHT IN THE AVENGERS, THEN THIS WOULD BE A VICTORY FOR THE AVENGERS.



BUT THIS WILL BE THE FIRST OF *MANY* VICTORIES THAT *MUST* BELONG TO *THEM*.



I HAVE THOUGHT THIS THROUGH, PLANNED IT OUT. AS I WAS RAISED TO DO, BY THE CANNIEST AND WISEST OF TEACHERS.



BUT THERE IS ALSO A PART OF ME THAT QUESTIONS MY OWN MOTIVES.

I WAS BORN FOR THIS.



BUT THE KINGDOM I WAS BORN TO DEFEND HAS REJECTED ME.

IN THE FACE OF THAT, I MUST WONDER...

...AM I MERELY CREATING
A NEW KINGDOM
FOR MYSELF HERE?





THE FACTORY.
MERLE, ALASKA.

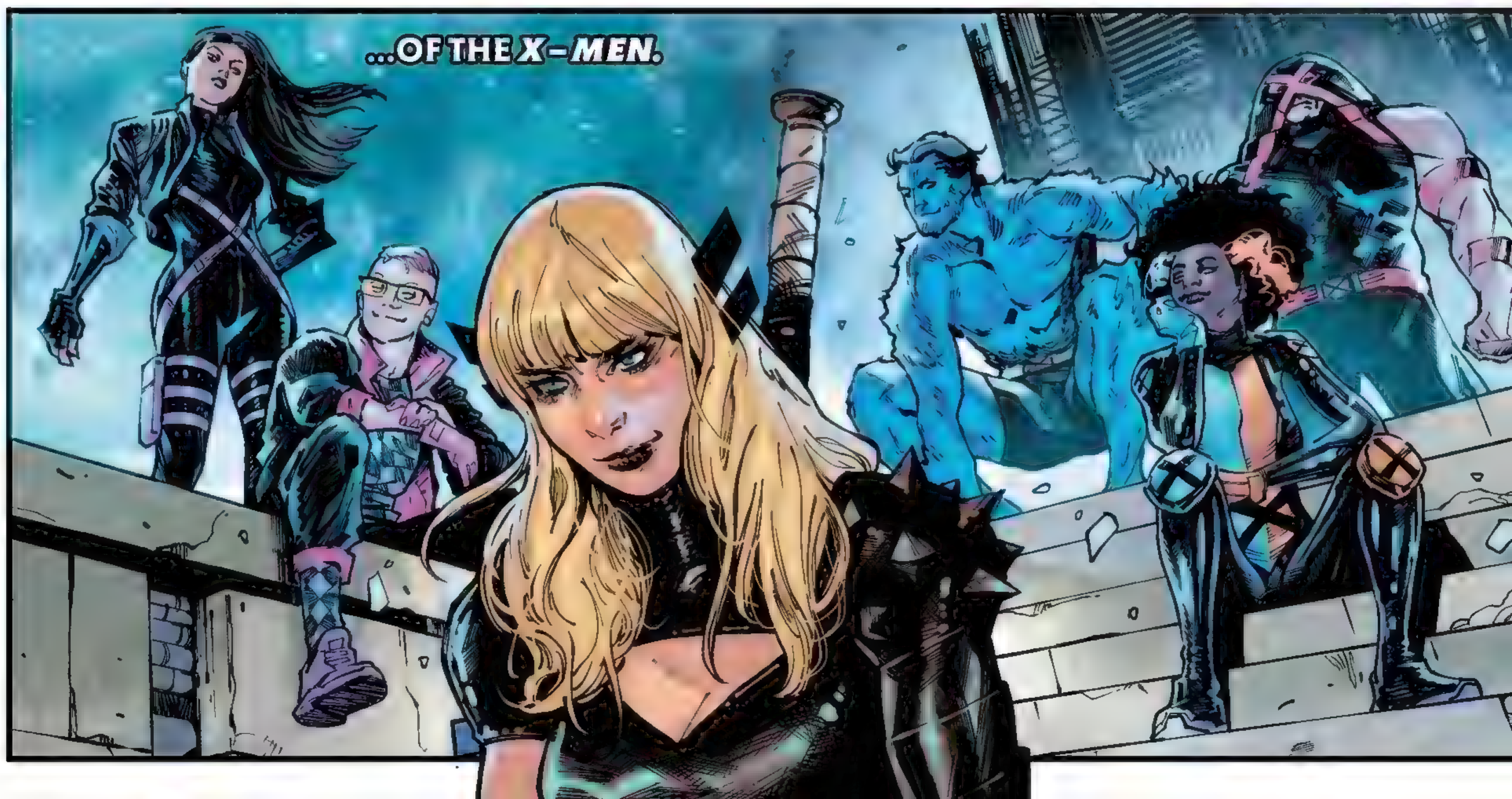


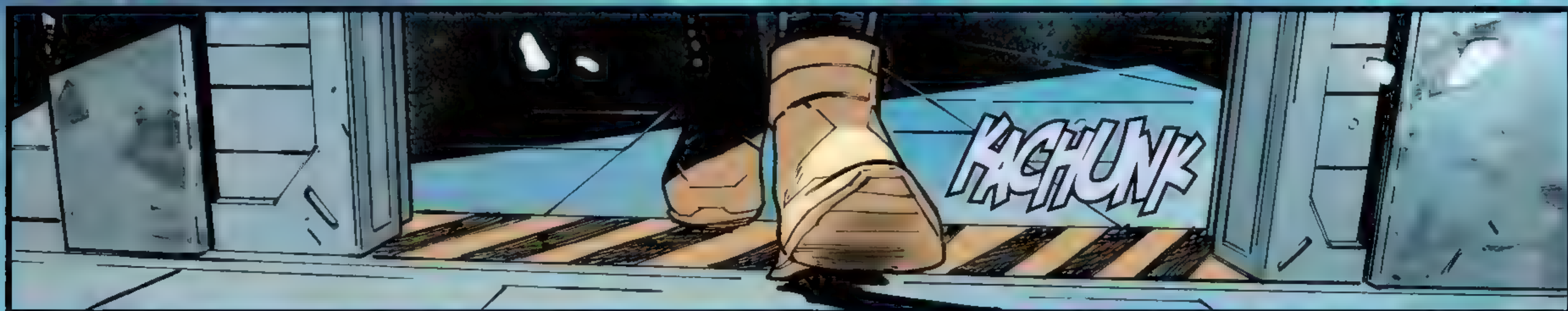
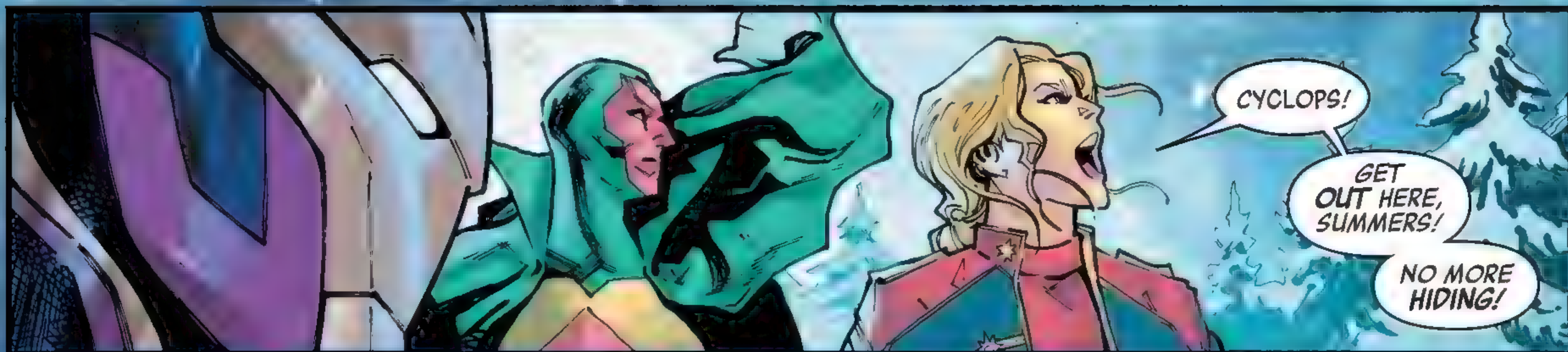
THE HOME...



**...AND
HEADQUARTERS...**

...OF THE X-MEN.





YOU
WANT
US?

WE'RE
RIGHT HERE,

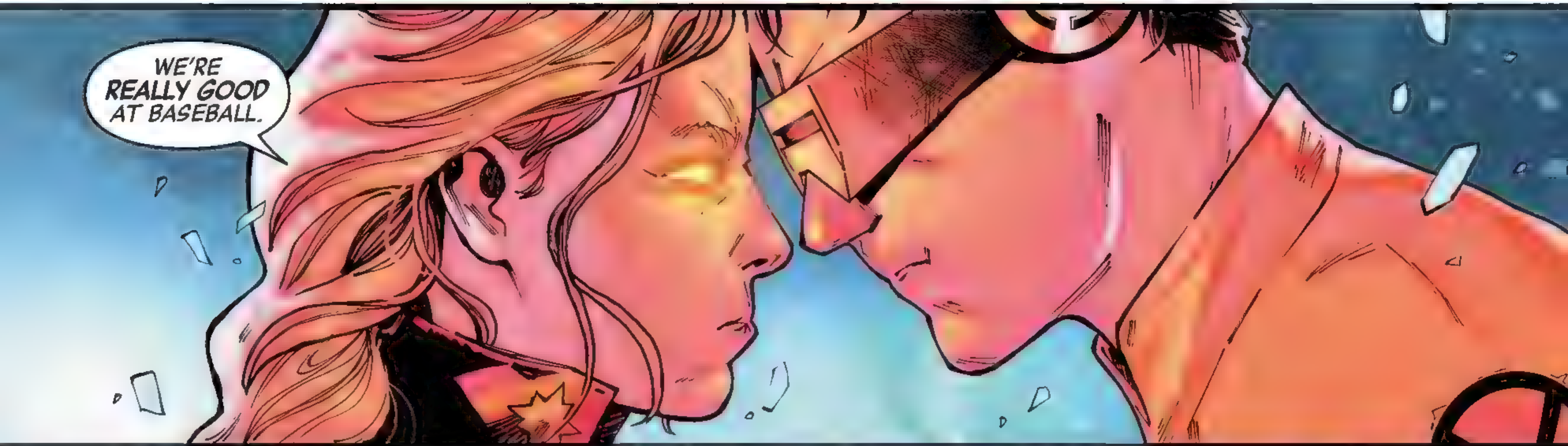
AVENGERS

PLEASE.

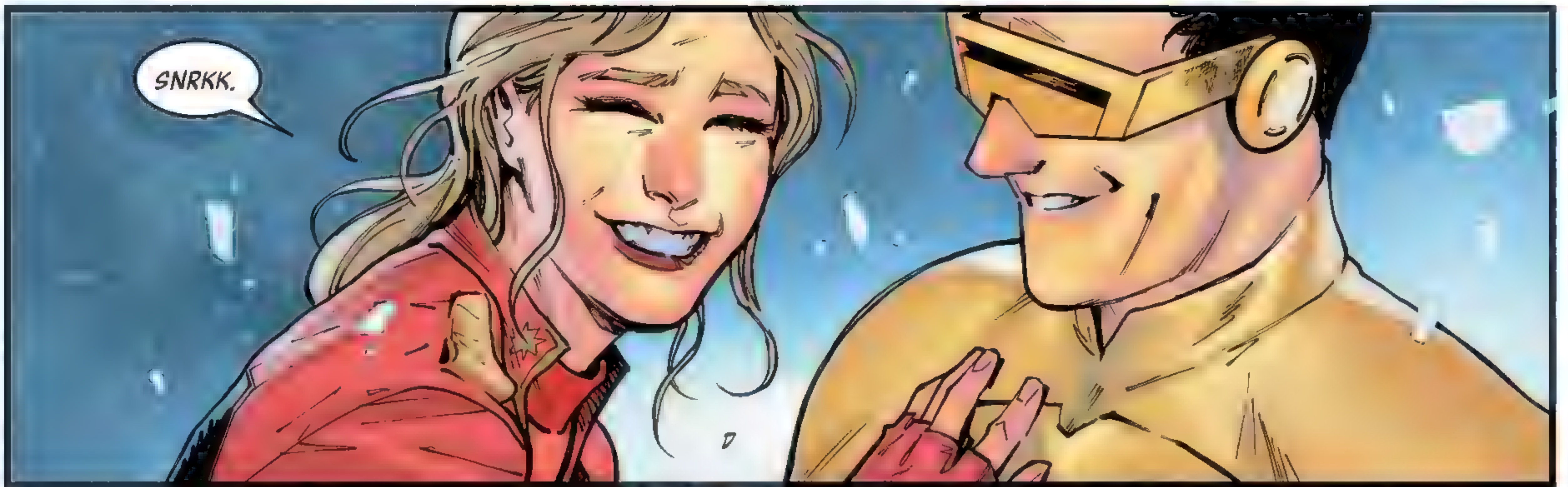
YOU CAN'T
WIN *THIS* ONE,

X-MEN





WE'RE
REALLY GOOD
AT BASEBALL.



SNRKK.



CAROL.

IT'S GOOD
TO SEE YOU,
SLIM.

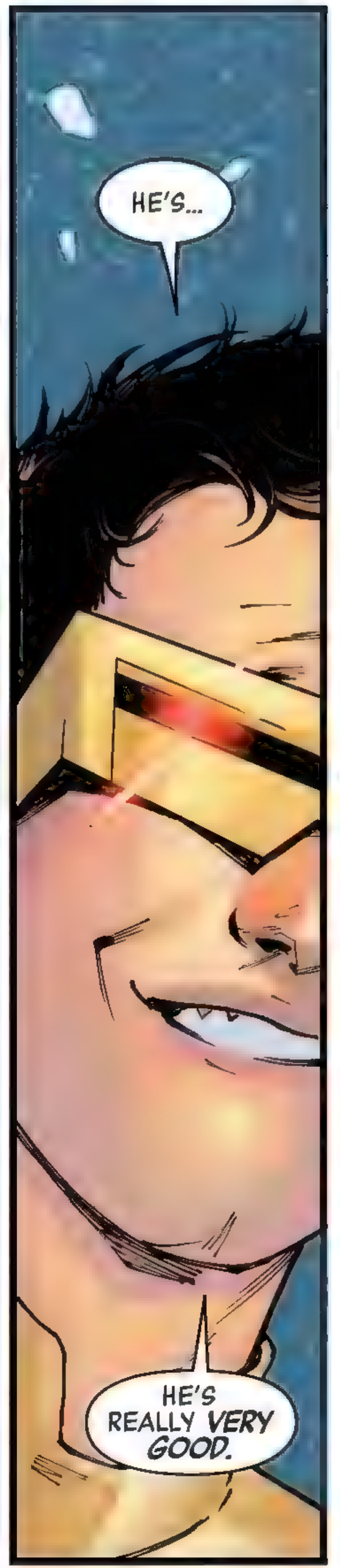


COME
ON IN.

BASEBALL
FIRST, THEN
DINNER. GLOB'S
BEEN IN THE
KITCHEN ALL DAY,
HE'S BESIDE
HIMSELF.

OH
GOD.

YOUR
COOK
IS NAMED
"GLOB"?



HE'S...

HE'S
REALLY VERY
GOOD.

**AVENGERS
VS. X-MEN.**
THE X-MEN LEAD
BY ONE RUN.

--JUST
IMAGINE HOW
EMBARRASSING
IT WOULD BE.

HUSH
NOW.

CAPTAIN
AMERICA,
STRIKING
OUT?

AT THE
NATIONAL
PASTIME?

SO
MUCH ON THE
LINE!



HEY.

I'M
THE BLACK
CAPTAIN
AMERICA,
HANK.

THE LINE
IS WHERE I
LIVE.





WHOOOSH



SOMEONE
GET THE
BALL--



WORLD-CLASS
TELEKINETIC, AND
I'M CATCHING
FLY BALLS.

HUMILIATING.



I'VE
GOT IT--



OH QUENTIN,
I THINK YOU'LL
FIND...

THAT YOU
DO NOT



AGH!

SORCERY!

WHOOOSH



AAARGGHH!!!



HEY! YOU CALL THAT A **PITCH**, **PSYLOCKE**? THOUGHT YOU WERE SOME KIND OF **NINJA ASSASSIN** OR SOMETHING?

I AM.

WHICH WOULD BE **USEFUL** IF I WAS TRYING TO KILL HIM WITH THE BALL, BUT YOU ALL SAID I **COULDN'T**.



I DON'T LIKE **TIES**, X-MEN.



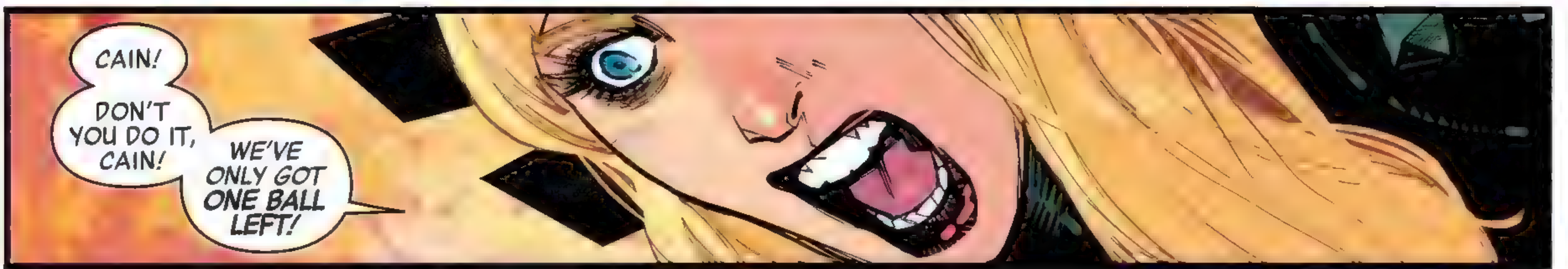
I'M IN IT TO WIN IT.



JUGGERNAUT'S CUTTIN' IN!

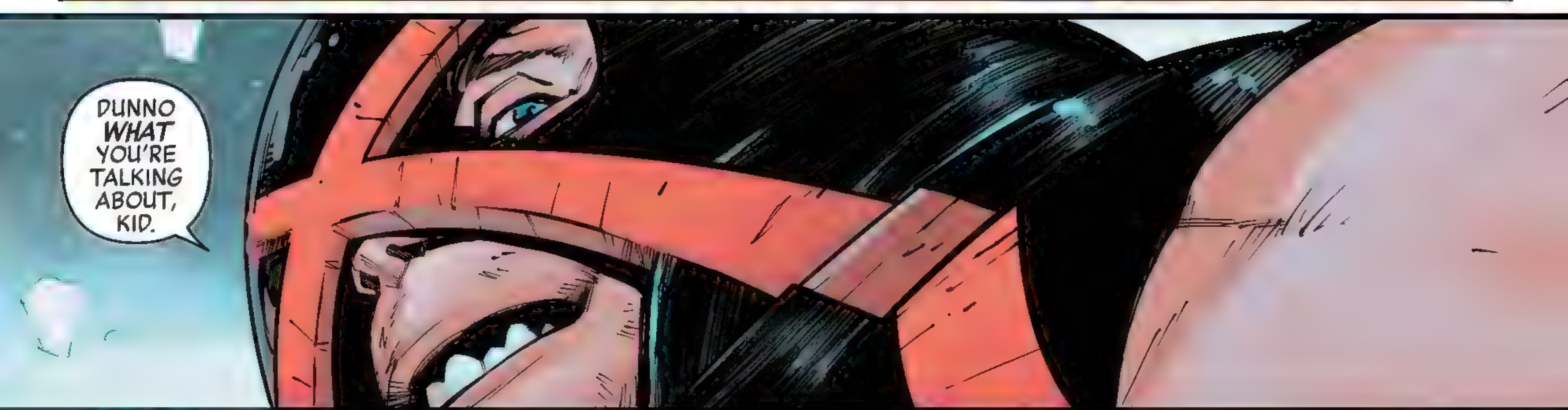
GET READY FOR A BALL WITH SOME **REAL MUSTARD** ON IT, AVENGERS!

PFFT!



CAIN! DON'T YOU DO IT, CAIN!

WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE BALL LEFT!



DUNNO WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, KID.





OH,
FOR--

CAIN!

...

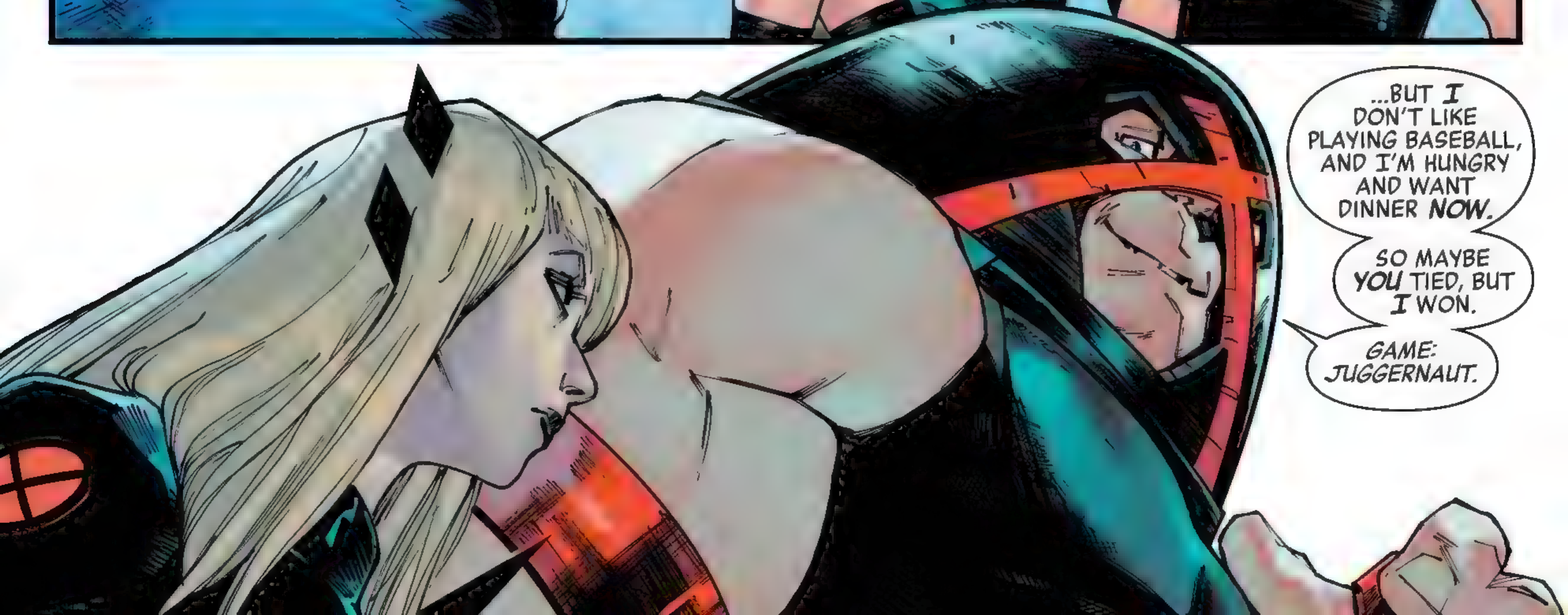
WELL, THAT
WAS OUR LAST
BALL, SO I GUESS
THAT'S THE
GAME.



YOU
DUMMY!

IT'S A TIE,
ALL BECAUSE
OF YOU!

TIE?
MAYBE FOR
AVENGERS VERSUS
X-MEN...



...BUT I
DON'T LIKE
PLAYING BASEBALL,
AND I'M HUNGRY
AND WANT
DINNER NOW.

SO MAYBE
YOU TIED, BUT
I WON.

GAME:
JUGGERNAUT.

THE FACTORY. DINNER.

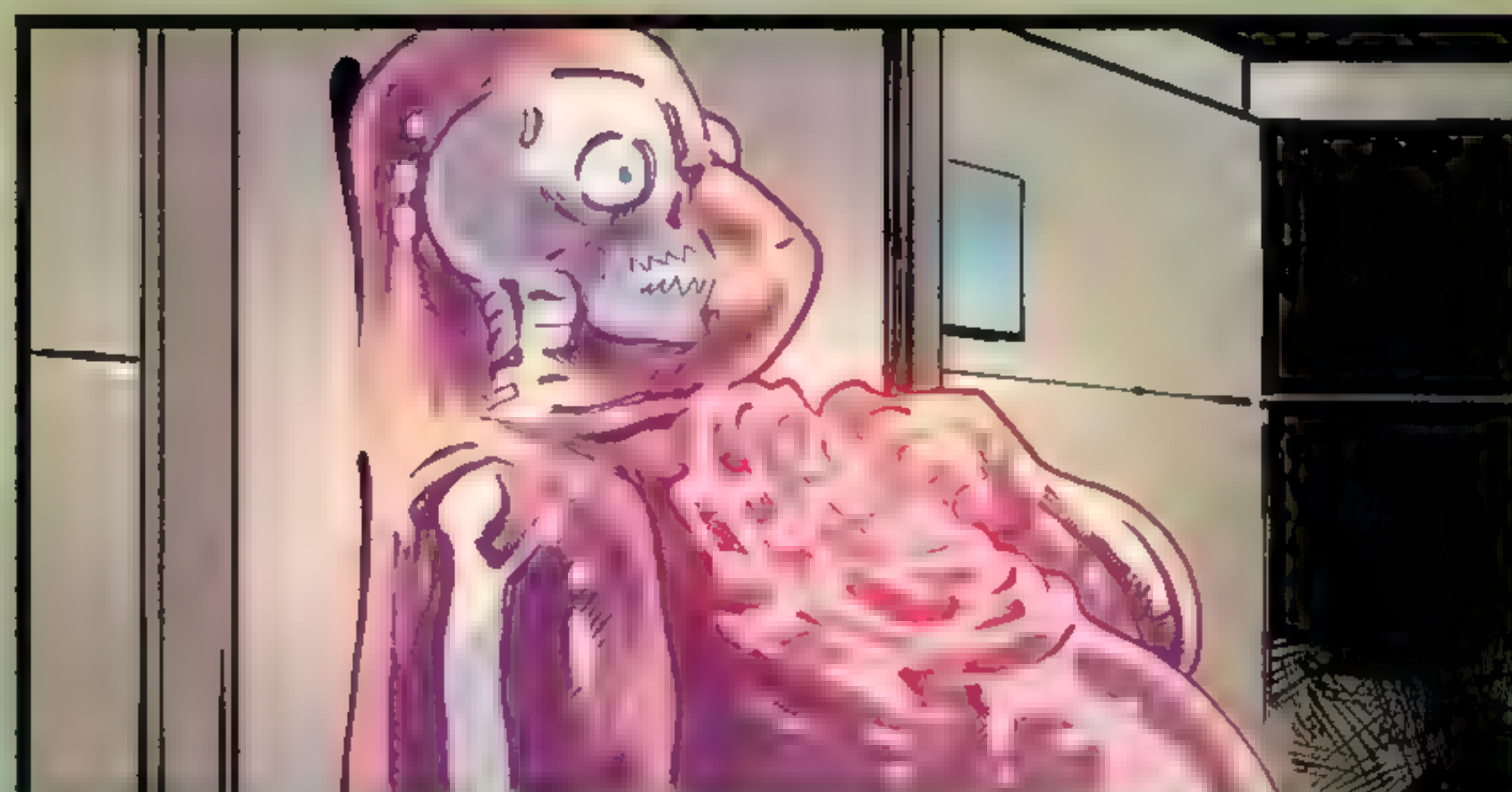
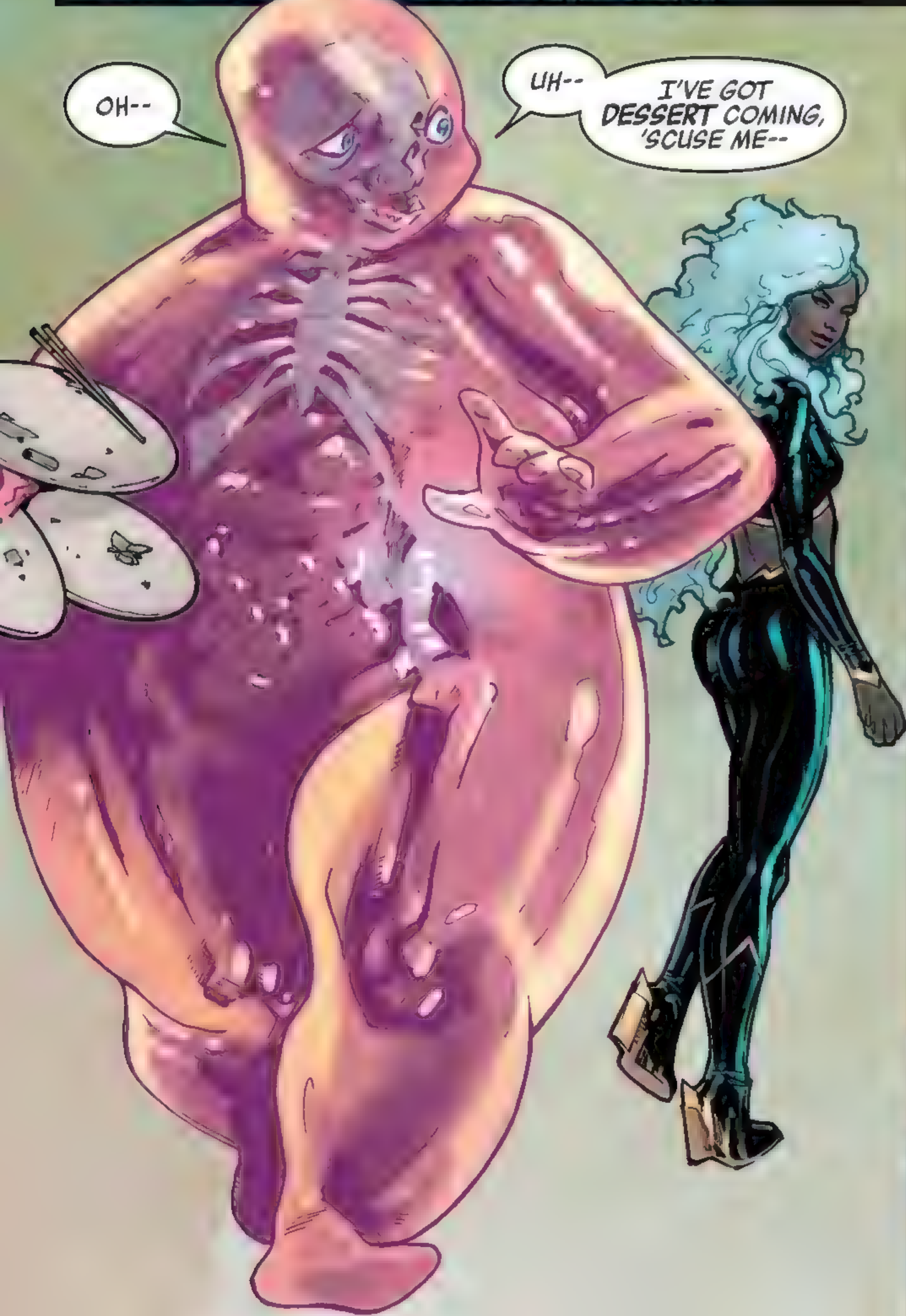
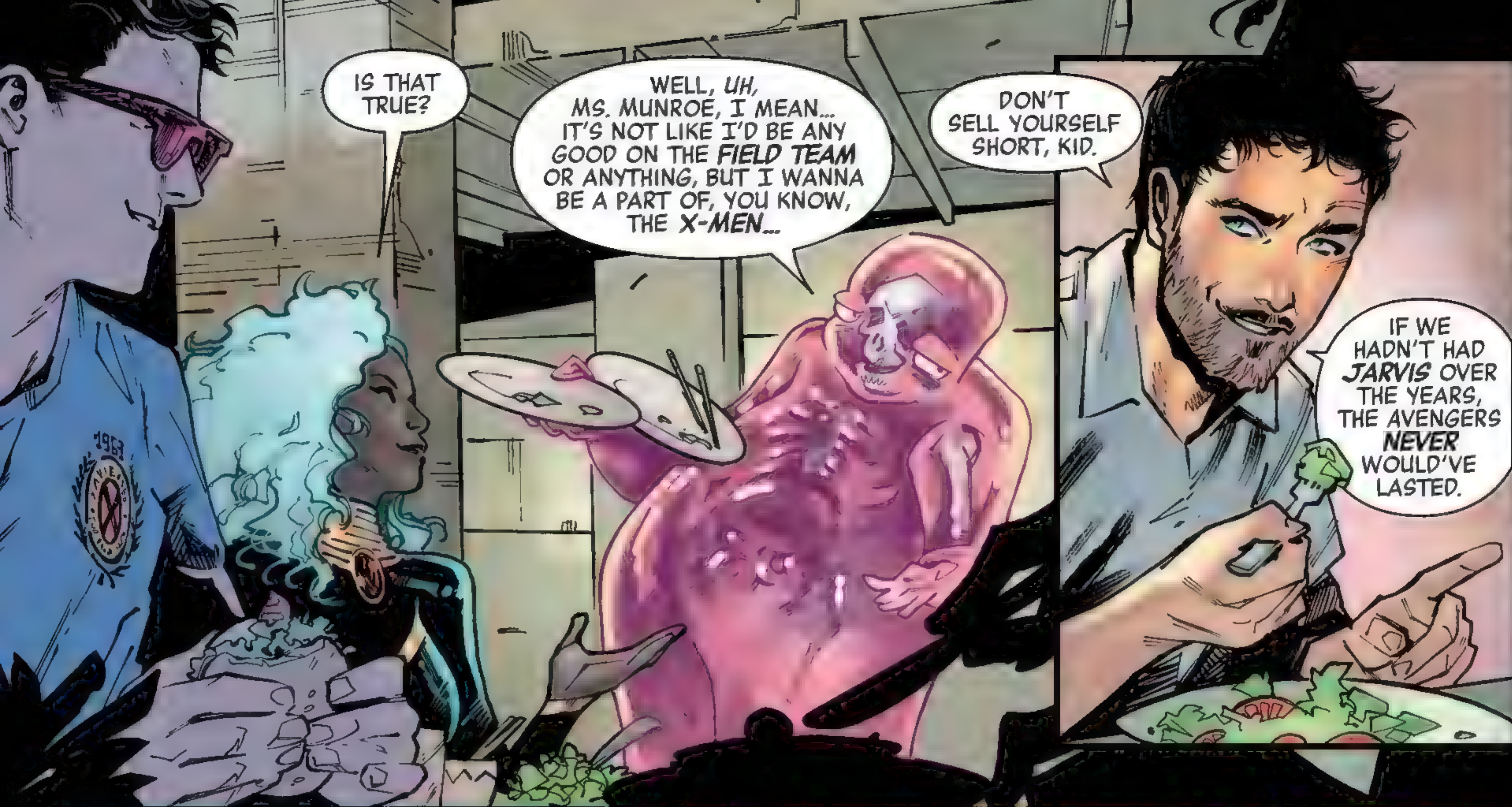
--GREW
ALL OF THIS
YOURSELVES?

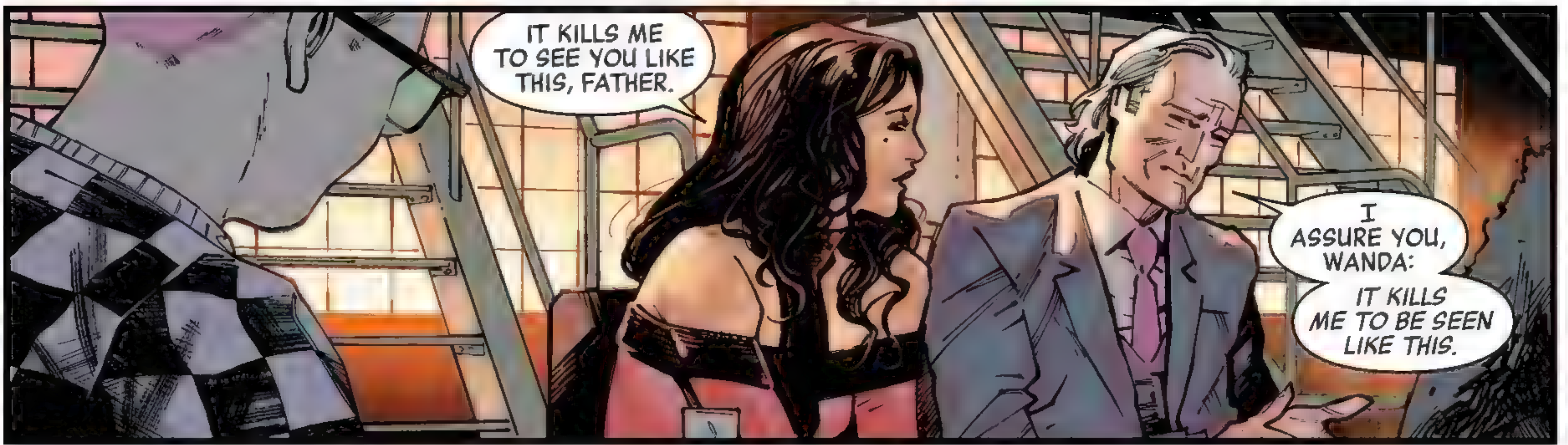
MOSTLY, YES.
BUT "OURSELVES"
GIVES THE *REST* OF
US TOO MUCH
CREDIT.

IT'S *GLOB*
HERE WHO DOES
ALMOST ALL THE
FARMING AND
COOKING AROUND
HERE.

HE'S
LARGELY
RESPONSIBLE
FOR MAKING
OUR FACTORY
A *HOME*.

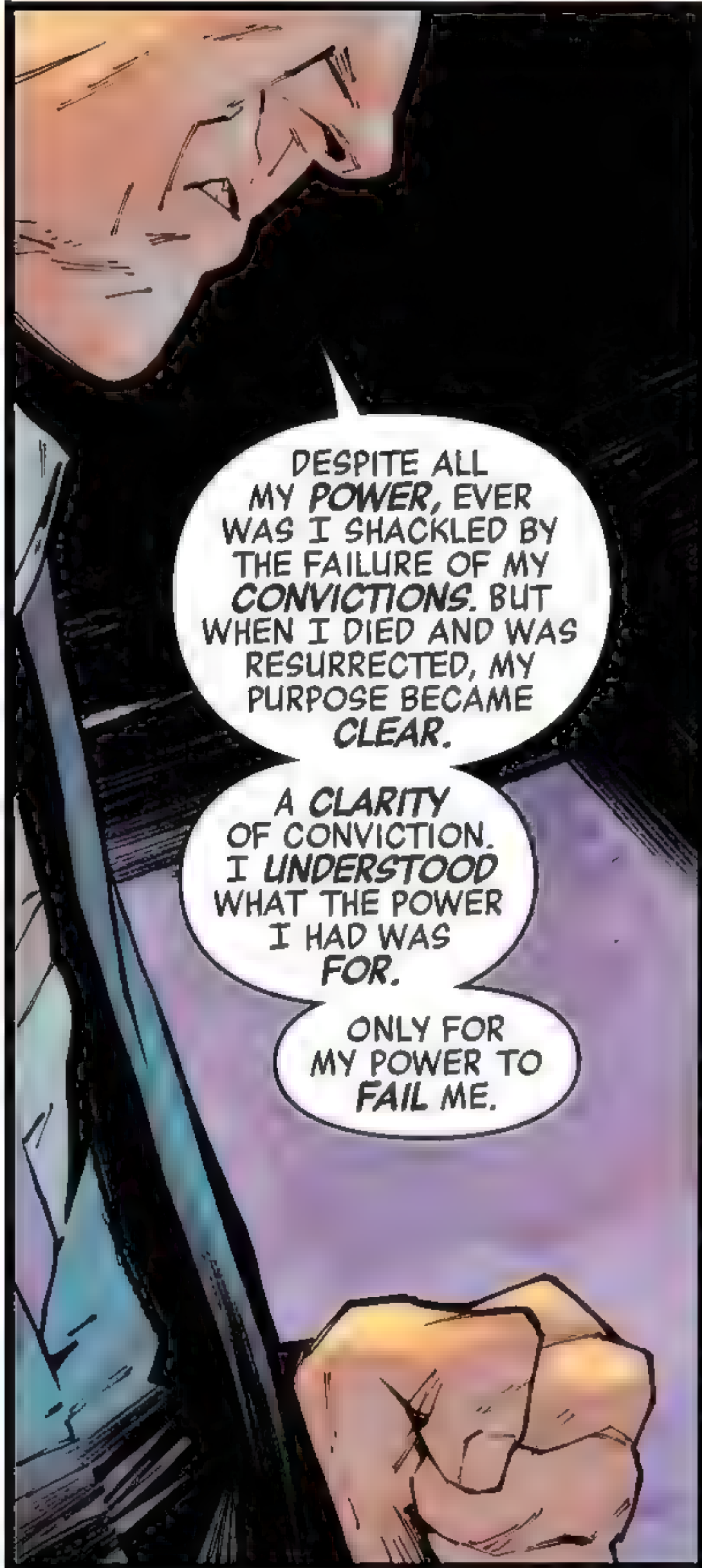






IT KILLS ME
TO SEE YOU LIKE
THIS, FATHER.

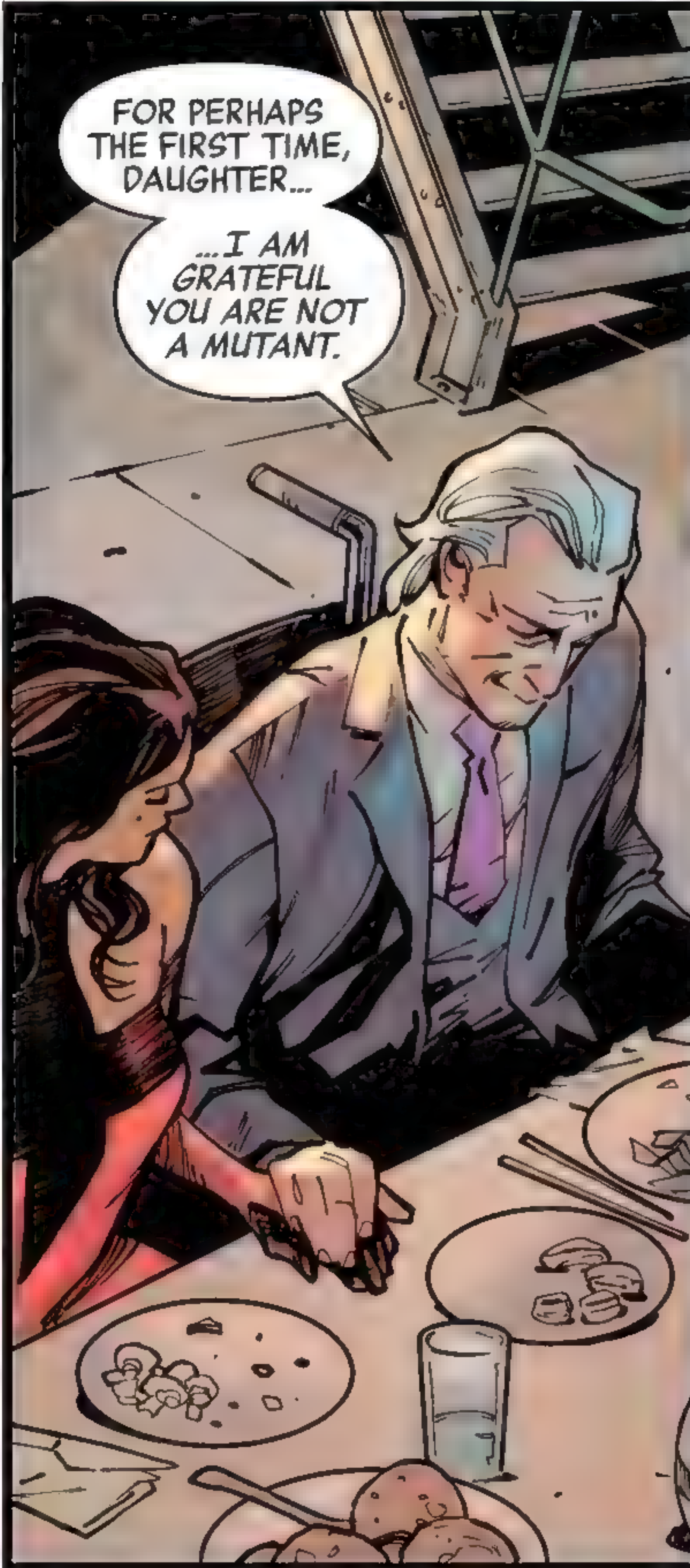
I
ASSURE YOU,
WANDA:
IT KILLS
ME TO BE SEEN
LIKE THIS.



DESPITE ALL
MY **POWER**, EVER
WAS I SHACKLED BY
THE FAILURE OF MY
CONVICTIONS. BUT
WHEN I DIED AND WAS
RESURRECTED, MY
PURPOSE BECAME
CLEAR.

A **CLARITY**
OF CONVICTION.
I **UNDERSTOOD**
WHAT THE POWER
I HAD WAS
FOR.

ONLY FOR
MY POWER TO
FAIL ME.



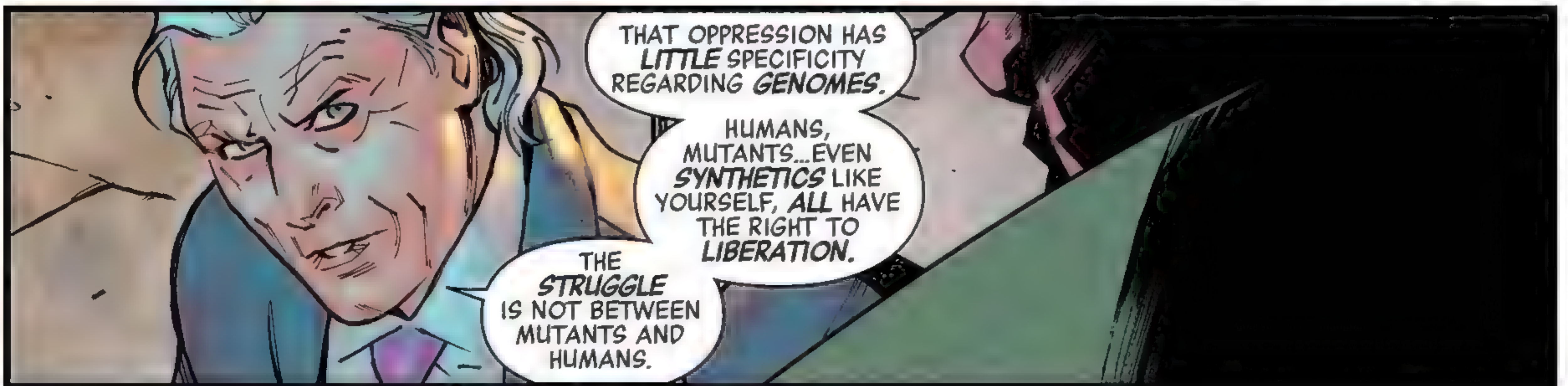
FOR PERHAPS
THE FIRST TIME,
DAUGHTER...

...I AM
GRATEFUL
YOU ARE NOT
A **MUTANT**.



IF I
MAY IMPOSE,
MAGNETO--

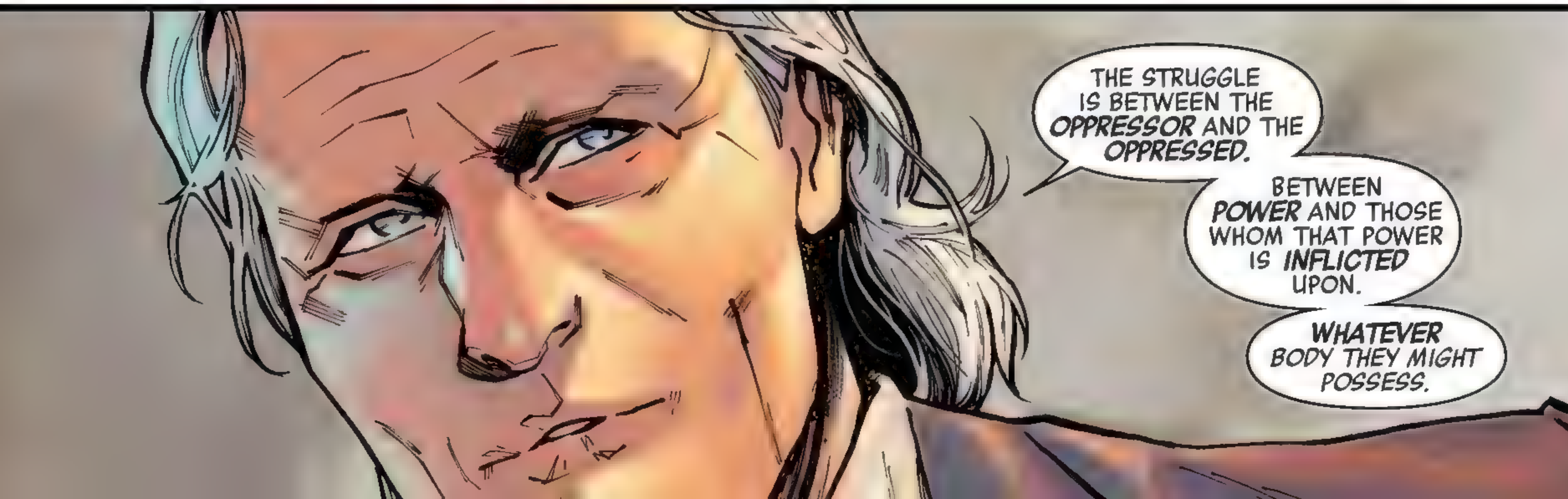
--WITH WHAT
CONVICTIONS
DID YOU RETURN
TO LIFE?



THAT OPPRESSION HAS
LITTLE SPECIFICITY
REGARDING **GENOMES**.

HUMANS,
MUTANTS...EVEN
SYNTHETICS LIKE
YOURSELF, ALL HAVE
THE RIGHT TO
LIBERATION.

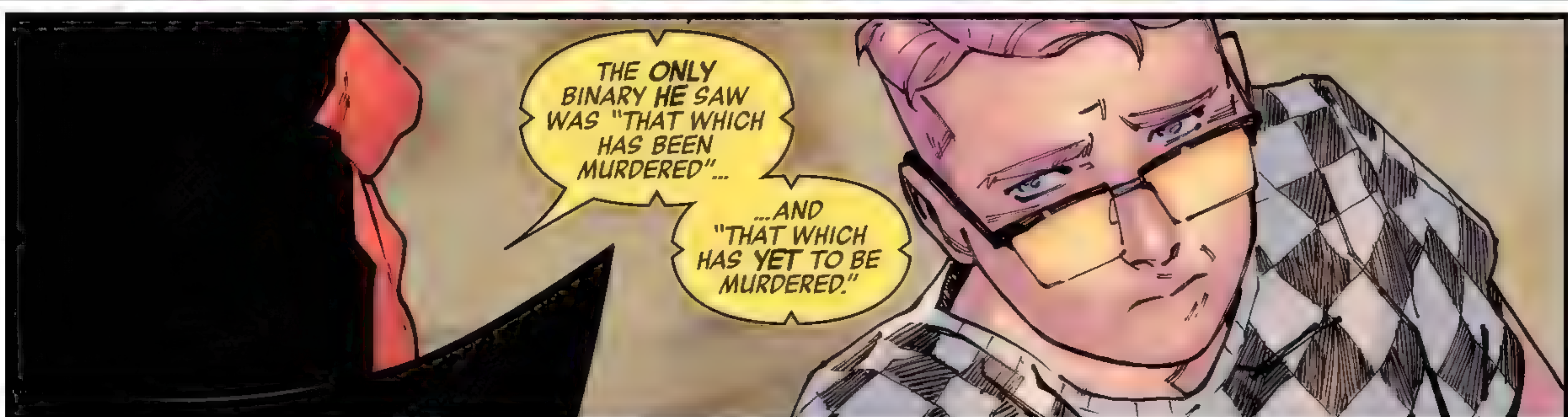
THE
STRUGGLE
IS NOT BETWEEN
MUTANTS AND
HUMANS.



THE STRUGGLE
IS BETWEEN THE
OPPRESSOR AND THE
OPPRESSED.

BETWEEN
POWER AND THOSE
WHOM THAT POWER
IS **INFLECTED**
UPON.

WHATEVER
BODY THEY MIGHT
POSSESS.



LATER.

--INCIDENTALLY,
I APPRECIATE
YOUR HELP WITH
MY LITTLE
HOBBY.

I DON'T
KNOW THE LAST
TIME I EVEN **SAW**
A MK1 QUINJET,
HANK.

WHERE IN
THE WORLD
DID YOU **FIND**
THIS THING?

WELL.

ER.

ILLYANA
AND I MAY HAVE...
LET'S SAY, **FREECYCLED**
IT FROM A FORMER
S.H.I.E.L.D. DECOMM
YARD IN NEWARK.

IT'S...

YOU DON'T
KNOW HOW GOOD
IT IS TO SEE YOU
AGAIN, HANK.

I FEEL LIKE
I'M HANGING OUT
WITH AN OLD
FRIEND AGAIN AFTER
A LONG TIME AWAY.
WE ALL DO.

TONY...

...WHY
DIDN'T YOU
STOP ME?

WHEN I
BECAME THE
MONSTER THAT
I DID?

I WAS AN
AVENGER. WE
WERE **FRIENDS**.
ARE FRIENDS.

WHY DIDN'T
THE AVENGERS
STOP ME FROM
HURTING SO MANY
PEOPLE?



BECAUSE...

BECAUSE SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY YOU--HE, NOT YOU--STOPPED BEING MY FRIEND, HANK.

NONE OF US *KNEW* HIM ANYMORE, KNEW WHAT HE WAS *DOING*.



YOU'RE NOT ALONE, HANK.

WE'VE ALL EXPERIENCED SOME SERIOUS MORAL FAILINGS BETWEEN WHEN YOU'RE FROM AND WHERE WE ARE NOW.

BUT YOU'RE THE *LUCKY* ONE.



LUCKY?

OH TONY, I FIND MYSELF *NOT* IN THE MOOD FOR *HILARITY*.



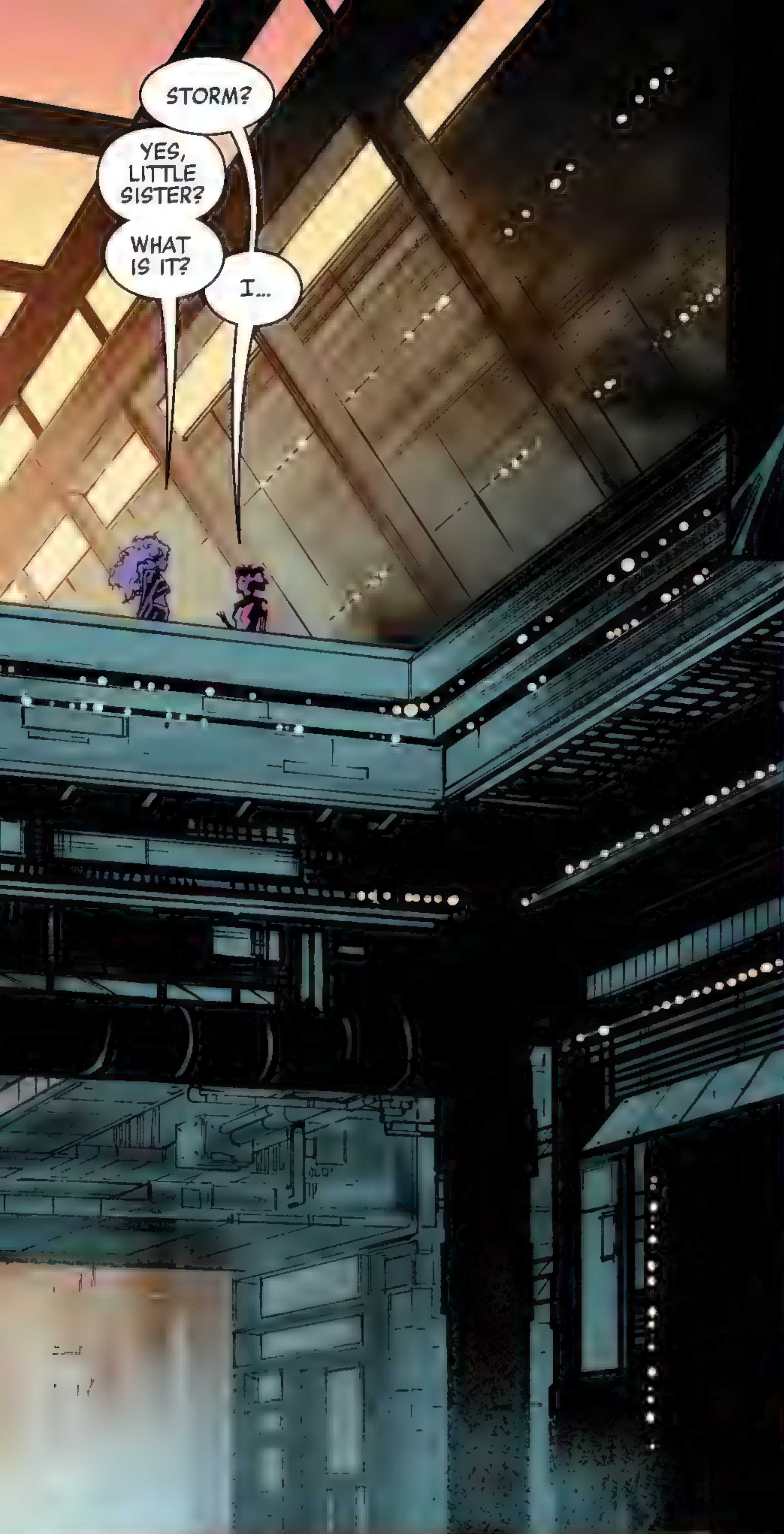
YOU'RE AFRAID OF YOUR FUTURE. *FOR* YOUR FUTURE.

I'M *ASHAMED* OF MY PAST.



I CAN'T CHANGE WHAT I'VE *DONE*.

BUT YOU CAN CHOOSE WHAT YOU *DO* FROM THIS POINT ON.



STORM?

YES,
LITTLE
SISTER?

WHAT
IS IT?

I...

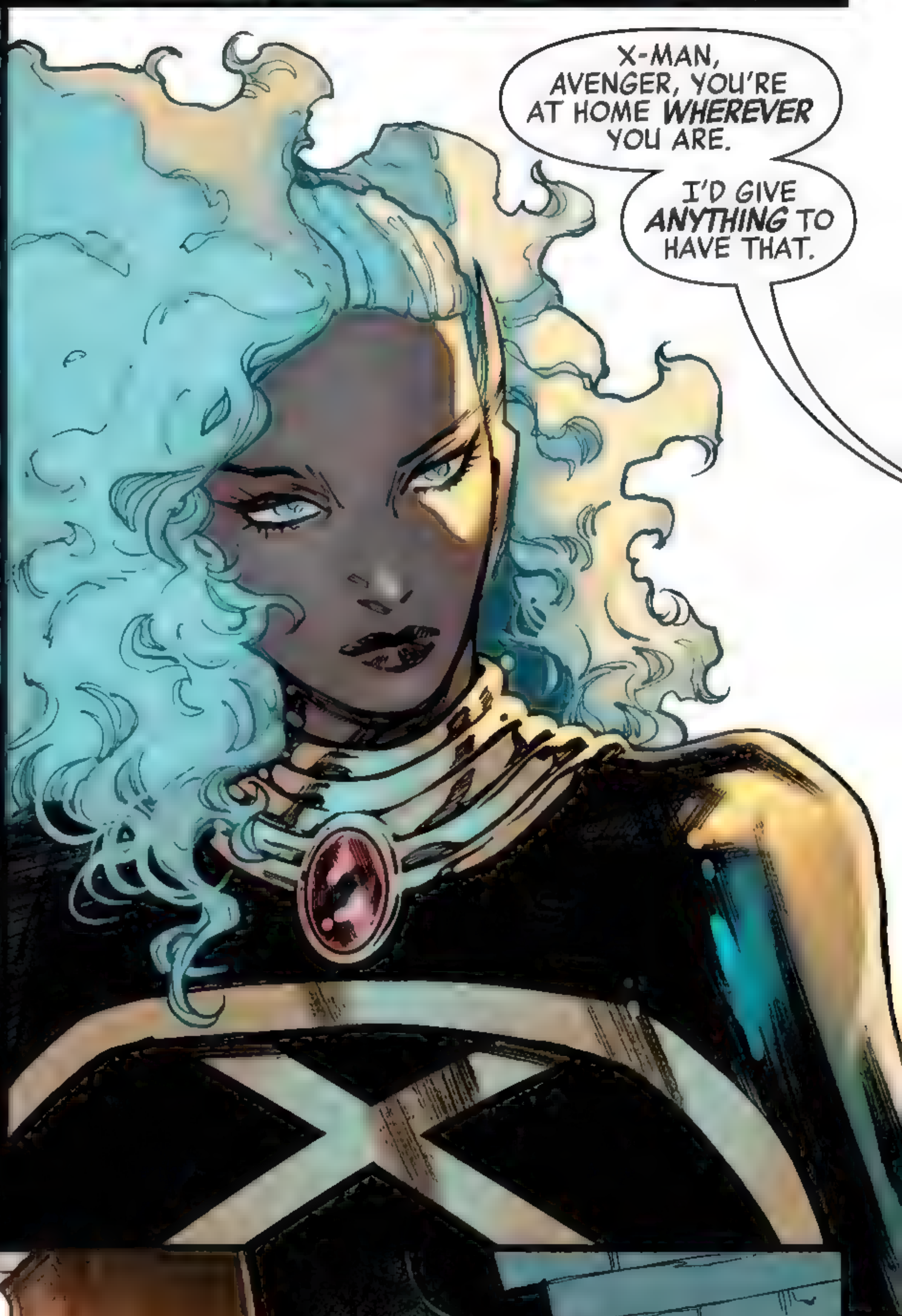


I DIDN'T
FIT IN ON
KRAKOA.

AND
I DON'T
KNOW IF I
FIT IN *HERE*
EITHER.

BUT
THEN, *NONE*
OF US FIT IN
ANYWHERE,
DO WE?

EXCEPT
FOR YOU.



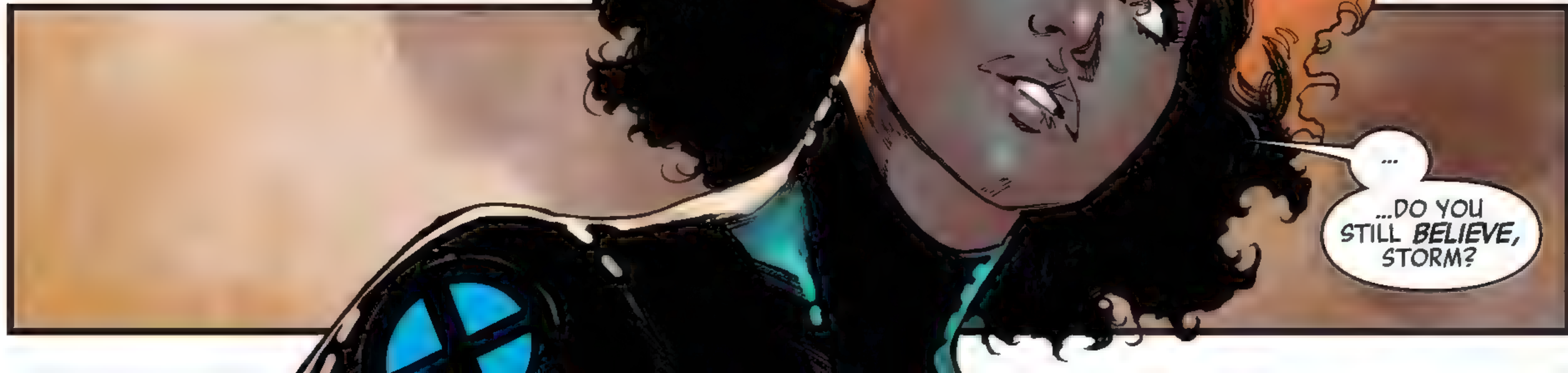
X-MAN,
AVENGER, YOU'RE
AT HOME *WHEREVER*
YOU ARE.

I'D GIVE
ANYTHING TO
HAVE THAT.

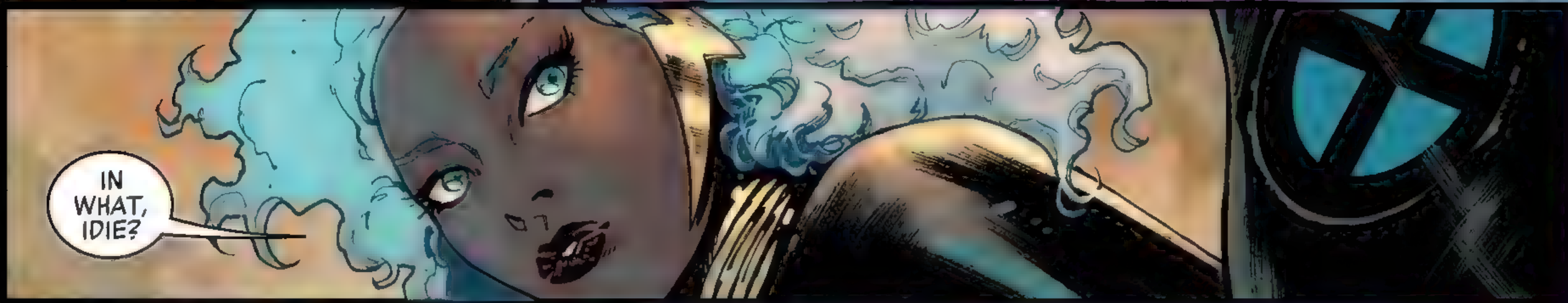


HMPH.

I CAME FROM
THE STREETS OF
CAIRO, IDIE. ANY
POISE I MIGHT HAVE,
I *LEARNED*.
PRIMARILY AS AN
X-MAN.



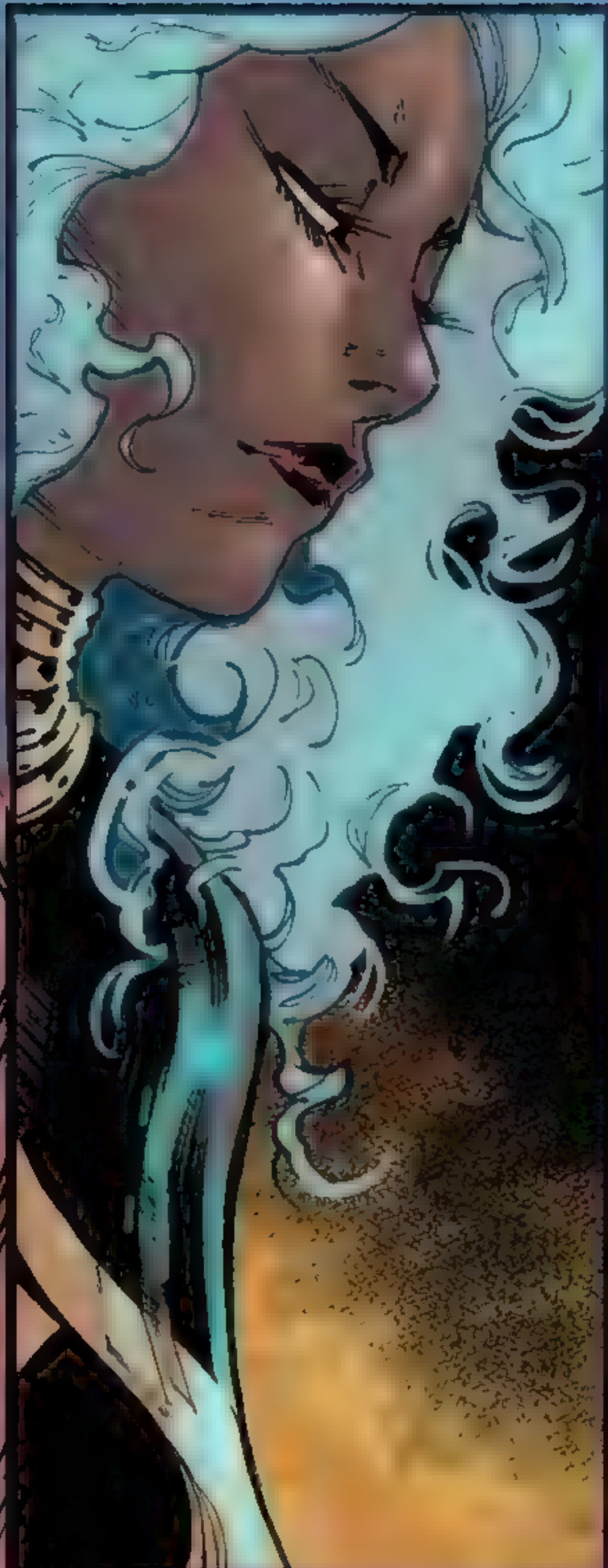
...
...DO YOU
STILL *BELIEVE*,
STORM?



IN
WHAT,
IDIE?



IN
XAVIER'S
DREAM.



I DO.

BUT I
BELIEVE IN XAVIER'S
DREAM THE SAME WAY
SAM BELIEVES IN HIS
COUNTRY.

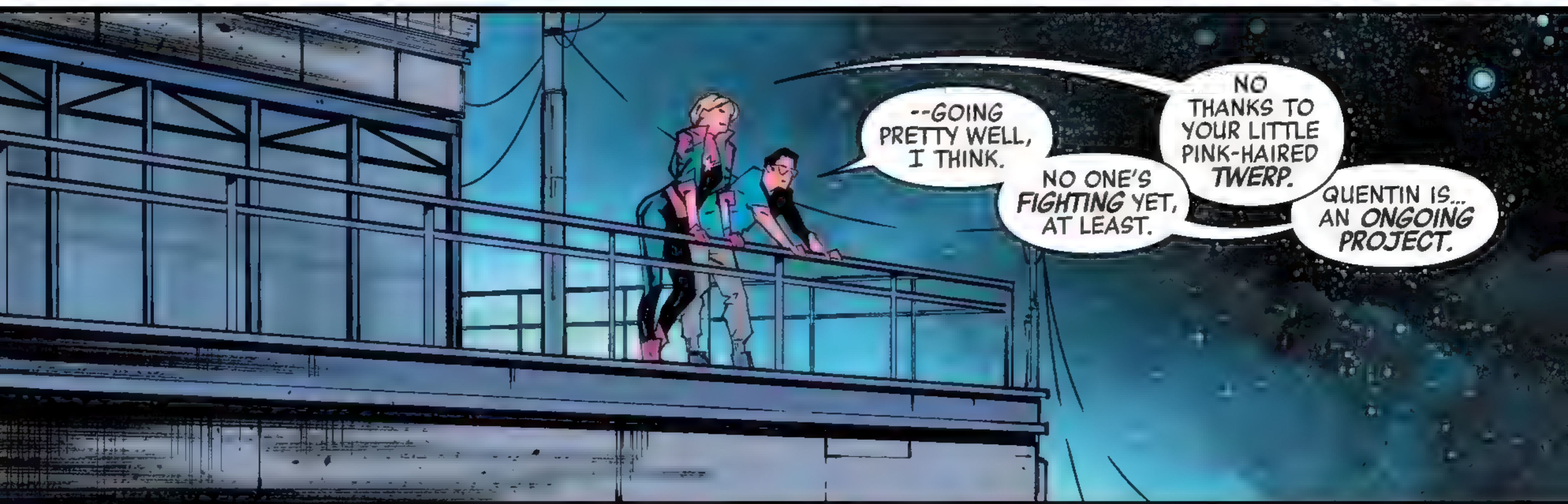
NOT
FOR WHAT
IT IS.



BUT
FOR WHAT IT
COULD BE.

WHAT
IT **SHOULD**
BE.

WHAT
IT **NEEDS**
TO BE.



--GOING
PRETTY WELL,
I THINK.

NO ONE'S
FIGHTING YET,
AT LEAST.

NO
THANKS TO
YOUR LITTLE
PINK-HAIRED
TWERP.

QUENTIN IS...
AN ONGOING
PROJECT.



BUT
EVERYONE
ELSE SEEMS
TO BE GETTING
ALONG.



LOOK.
SCOTT.

I KNOW
YOU'RE HIDING
THINGS FROM ME.
FROM THE
AVENGERS.

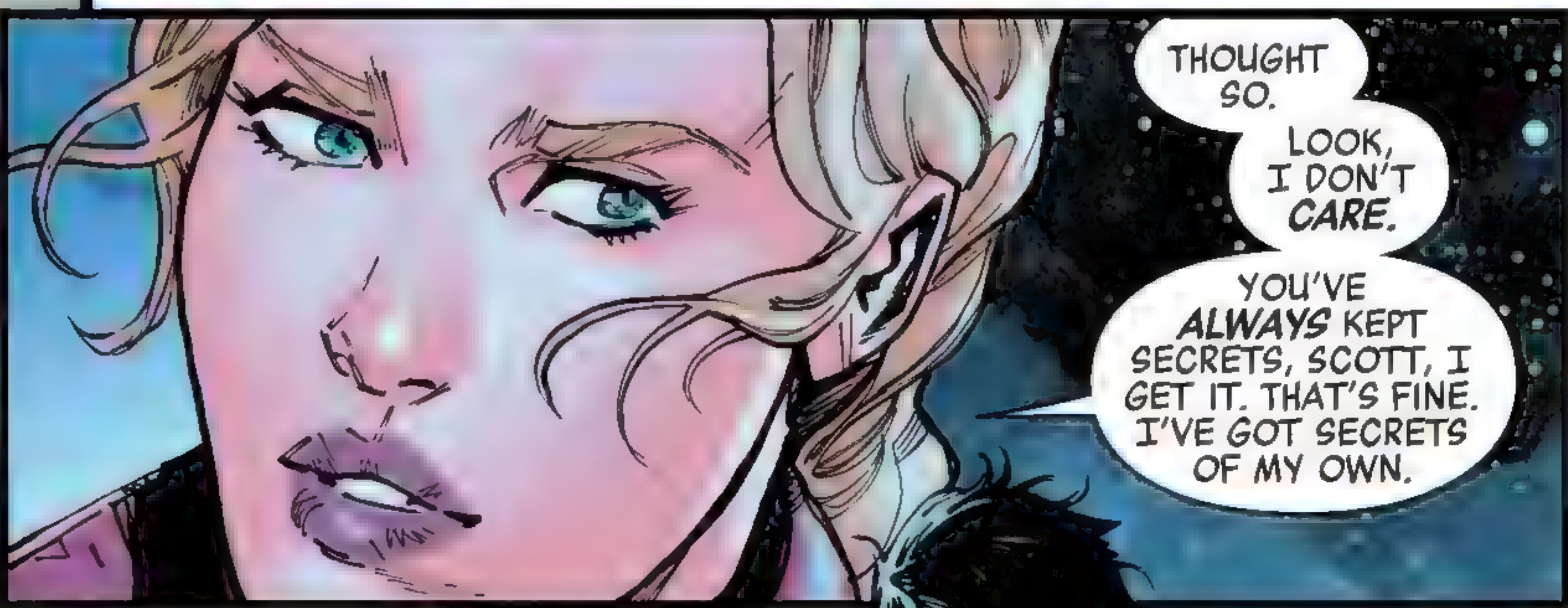
EXCUSE
ME?



THE X-MEN
AREN'T HIDING
ANYTHING.

OH
YEAH?

THEN WHY
DON'T YOU TELL
ME WHAT'S REALLY
GOING ON WITH THIS
"MUTANT CONTAGION"?
OR WHAT WANDA AND
MAGNETO WERE
TALKING ABOUT?



THOUGHT
SO.

LOOK,
I DON'T
CARE.

YOU'VE
ALWAYS KEPT
SECRETS, SCOTT, I
GET IT. THAT'S FINE.
I'VE GOT SECRETS
OF MY OWN.



SUCH AS:
WE HAVE SOME
INFORMATION ABOUT
THE FUTURE, FROM
KANG.

AND WE'VE
GOT A SCHEME
TO GET SOME
MORE.

BUT THE
GIST IS: IT'S
ALL BAD.

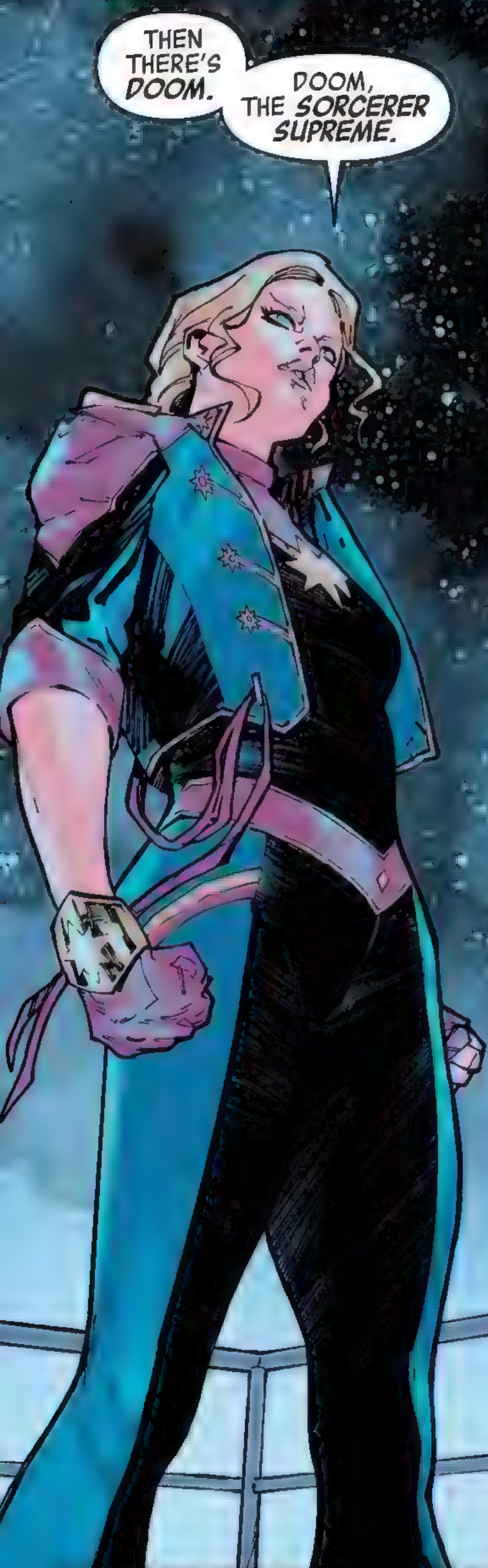


TRIBULATION
EVENTS.

GIGADEATH
MASS-CASUALTY
EVENTS, IF NOT
STOPPED.

THE ASHEN
COMBINE COMING
TO EARTH WAS ONE.
THE BLOOD HUNT
WAS ANOTHER.

AND THE
VAMPIRES DIDN'T
SEE ANY DIFFERENCE
IN MUTANT OR HUMAN
BLOOD DURING THE
BLOOD HUNT.



THEN
THERE'S
DOOM.

DOOM,
THE **SORCERER
SUPREME**.



CAROL, TELL
ME WHAT THIS
IS ABOUT.

WE'VE KNOWN
EACH OTHER FOR A
LONG TIME. YOU WERE
PRACTICALLY AN
HONORARY X-MAN,
FOR GOD'S SAKE.



PLEASE.

I WAS
NEVER
YOUR **RICK
JONES**.



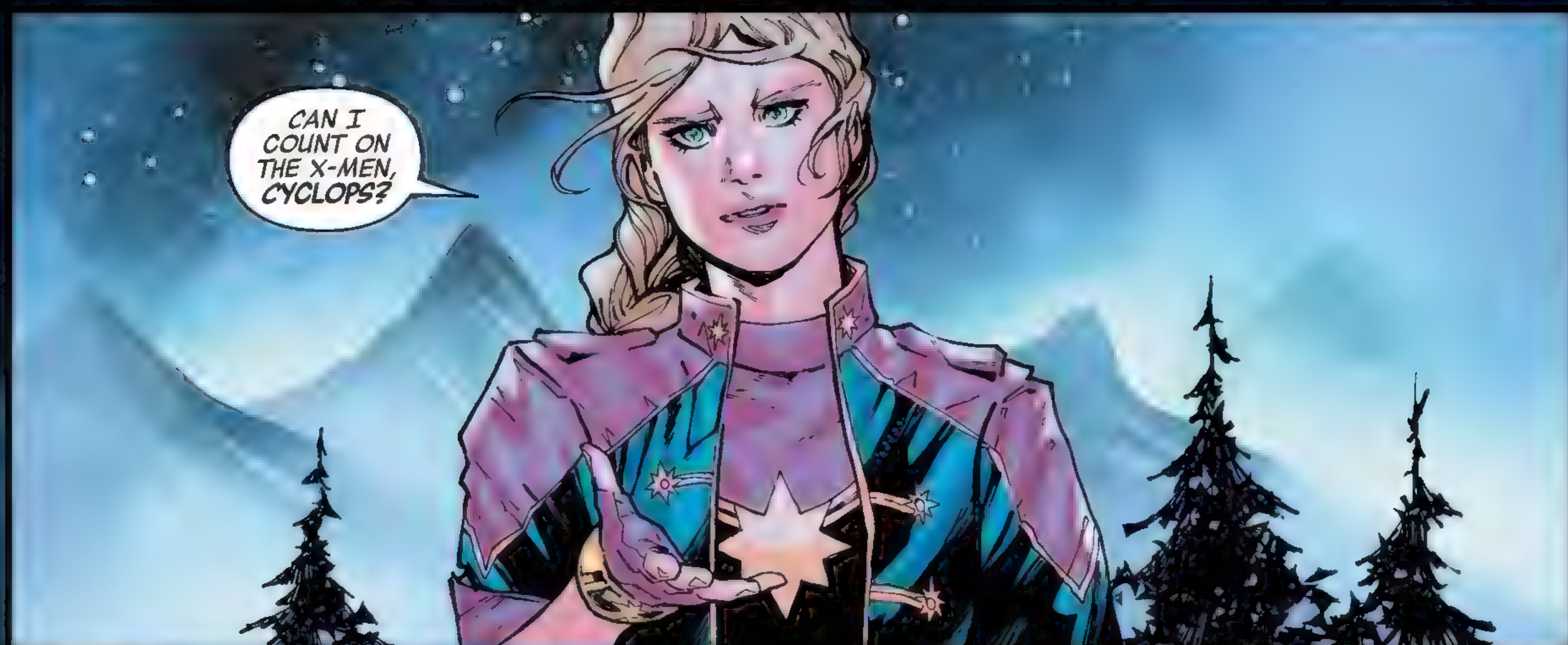
LIVING IN A
FORTRESS. ENOUGH
POWER TO RIVAL AN
ARMY. BEHOLDEN TO NO
GOVERNANCE BUT
THEIR OWN.

I CAN'T
TELL IF I'M
DESCRIBING **X-MEN**
OR **AVENGERS** AT
THIS POINT.



WE'VE GOT
MORE IN COMMON
NOW THAN WE HAVE
IN A LONG TIME,
SCOTT.

AND I
DON'T KNOW
IF THE **AVENGERS**
CAN FACE WHAT'S
COMING ON
OUR OWN.





THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY. EARTH ORBIT.

THIS COULD BE THE BIG ONE.

EVER SINCE KANG CLUED US IN ON THE **TRIBULATION EVENTS**, THE **MISSING MOMENT**, ALL OF IT, WE'VE BEEN PLAYING **CATCH-UP**.

REACTING WHEN WE SHOULD BE **ACTING**.

BUT WANDA'S LEARNED SOMETHING **INTERESTING**.

WANDA?

AS THE **SCARLET WITCH**, I HAVE A, SHALL WE SAY, **ESOTERIC** GROUP OF ACQUAINTANCES AND CONTACTS.

CHAOS SPIRITS, COSMIC UNBEINGS, FORGOTTEN GODS-- THAT SORT OF THING.

I MADE IT KNOWN THAT IF THERE WAS **ANYONE** WHO COULD OFFER ME INFORMATION ABOUT THIS "MISSING MOMENT"...

...THEN I WOULD BE **VERY** PLEASED WITH THEM. AND THE FAVOR OF THE **SCARLET WITCH** IS NO SMALL THING.

"WHICH IS HOW I
LEARNED THAT AN
ENTIRE **DATA ARCHIVE**
ON JUST THAT TOPIC,
FORMERLY OWNED
BY **KANG HIMSELF**,
WAS UP FOR AUCTION."

I AM ASSURED,
HOWEVER, THAT THE
PRICE TO WIN THIS AUCTION
WOULD BE WEALTH ON A
PLANETARY SCALE. SO
OBVIOUSLY, **BUYING THIS**
DATA IS OUT OF THE
QUESTION.

AN
AUCTION WE
CAN'T WIN?

OKAY. SO
WHAT, THEN? WE
STEAL IT?

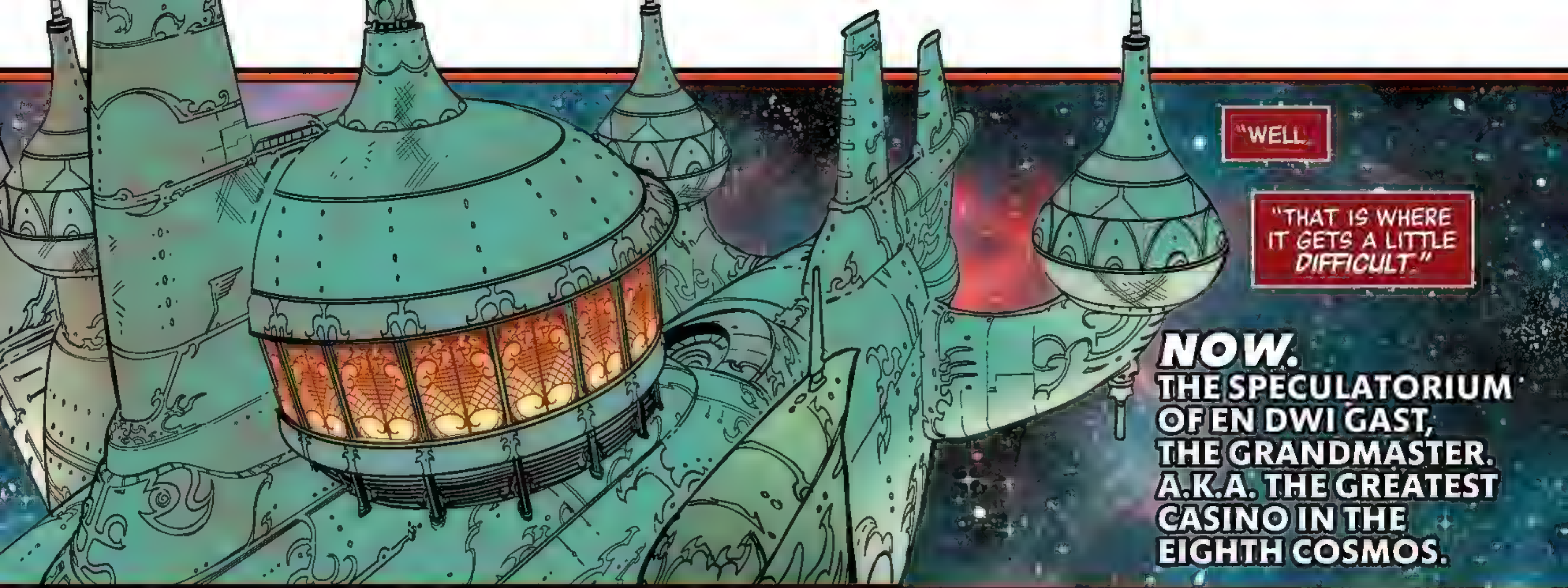
EXACTLY.

A
HEIST.

A
CAPER!

HM.

WHERE
EXACTLY IS
THIS AUCTION,
WANDA?



"WELL."

"THAT IS WHERE
IT GETS A LITTLE
DIFFICULT."

NOW.
THE SPECULATORIUM
OF EN DWI GAST,
THE GRANDMASTER.
A.K.A. THE GREATEST
CASINO IN THE
EIGHTH COSMOS.



--PRESENTING
WANDA MAXIMOFF,
THE SCARLET WITCH,
THE LIVING
DARKHOLD.

EXCELLENT,
EXCELLENT,
WELCOME! AND
YOUR NAME AND
TITLES, FINE
SIR-BEING?

THE
VISION.

NO...NO
TITLE, GENTLE
SIR-BEING?

THE
VISION NEEDS
NO TITLES,
DARLING.

PLEASE
DO TRY TO
KEEP UP.



WELL,
VISION...

...WHAT
SHALL WE GAMBLE
UPON?

INTERSTELLAR
WAR? GLADIATORIAL
BLOOD SPORT?

SHOW
DOWN



I SUPPOSE
CARDS WOULD
BE RATHER TOO
MUNDANE.

INCIDENTALLY,
PEOPLE ARE
STARING--



I AM THE
LIVING
DARKHOLD,
VISION.

AND MORE
IMPORTANTLY, THE
SCARLET WITCH.

I AM KNOWN.
AS IS THE POTENTIAL
FOR PROBABILITIES TO
BECOME...**STRANGE**
IN MY PRESENCE.



"PROBABILITIES."

A WOMAN WHO
ALTERS LUCK IS
INDEED ONE TO KEEP
AN EYE UPON IN
A CASINO.



INDEED--

OOF!

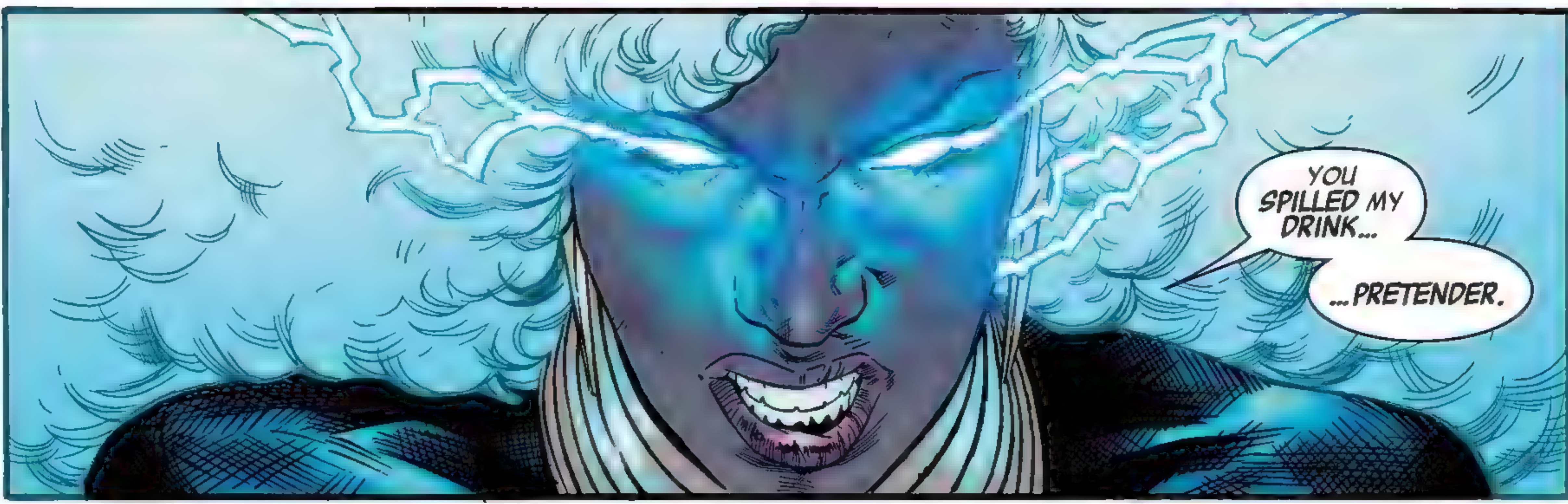


WHO--?

ORORO
MUNROE.
RECENTLY
REGENT OF
SOL.

RECENTLY
SEAT OF LOSS,
OF THE GREAT
RING OF
ARAKKO.
BUT
CURRENTLY...

...A REAL
MUTANT.



YOU
SPILLED MY
DRINK...

...PRETENDER.

THEN.

--AND THEN
YOU SAY, "YOU
SPILLED MY DRINK,
PRETENDER!"

HORRIBLE.

IT'S
A GOOD
IDEA.

CASINOS
ARE ALL ABOUT
SURVEILLANCE. THIS
ONE'S PROBABLY NO
DIFFERENT.

WE CAN'T
DO ANYTHING
ABOUT THE
HOUSE'S
EYES...

...BUT WE CAN
MAKE THEM LOOK
IN THE DIRECTION
WE WANT.

WITH
A FIGHT!
POW!

AAAAH!

NOT THE
FACE!

ARE YOU
SURE YOU TWO
CAN KICK UP A BIG
ENOUGH STINK TO
PUT ALL EYES
ON YOU?

CAN
STORM AND
THE SCARLET
WITCH KICK UP
A STINK?

ONE FIT
TO DRAW
EVERY EYE IN
THE PLACE?

REALLY,
CAROL.

"WHO DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE
TALKING TO?"

NOW.

LADIES!
LADIES,
PLEASE!





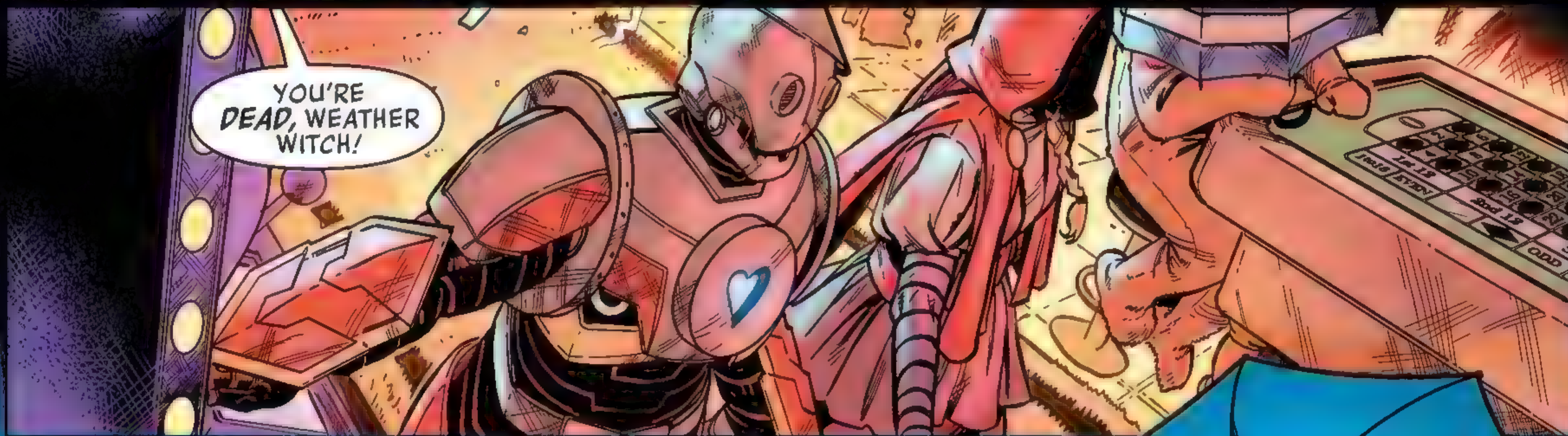
SAY IT AGAIN!

CALL ME "PRETENDER" ONE MORE TIME!



PRETENDER!

PRETENDER!



YOU'RE DEAD, WEATHER WITCH!



LADIES, PLEASE, DECORUM!

THEN.

--SO,
THIS IS
WHAT WE'VE
GOT.

THE CITY
AND I HAVE BEEN
INFILTRATING *EYE-SPY
MICRODRONES* INTO THE
SPECULATORIUM ALL
WEEK, MAPPING THE
PLACE OUT.

WE'VE GOT
MAYBE 87% OF IT
COVERED, THOUGH THEIR
SECURITY IS GOOD--THEY
KEEP KILLING MY DRONES
WITHIN AN HOUR OR
TWO OF INSERTION.

I'VE GONE
THROUGH A
COUPLE HUNDRED
AT THIS POINT.

I'M ASSUMING HAVING
THE CITY TELEPORT US
INTO THE VAULTS
IS A NO-GO?

CORRECT.
THE GRANDMASTER
IS AN ELDER OF THE
UNIVERSE--HIS TELEPORT
SHIELDING IS SECOND
TO NONE.

BUT...
THIS ISN'T
HIS PLACE, IF
YOU GET
ME.

EXPLAIN.

THIS IS HIS
SIDE HUSTLE.
A BIT OF FUN,
RIGHT?

HE LIKES
GAMES, SO HE
BUILT A *CASINO*.
BUT IT'S RUN BY HIS
PEOPLE, SO THERE'S
ALWAYS SOMETHING
ON FOR HIM WHEN
HE'S BORED.

I WAS
CAUGHT UP
IN ONE OF THE
GRANDMASTER'S
GAMES A WHILE
BACK.* SO WERE
WANDA AND
VISION.

TRYING
TO ROB *HIM*
WOULD BE ONE
THING. BUT DOING
A RIP-AND-RUN ON
HIS *HOBBY CASINO*
RUN BY HIS
BOYS, THAT'S
DOABLE.

THE ONLY
WAY WE PULL
THIS OFF...

**SEE AVENGERS:
NO SURRENDER!*

"...IS IF WE DON'T
ATTRACT HIS
ATTENTION."

NOW.

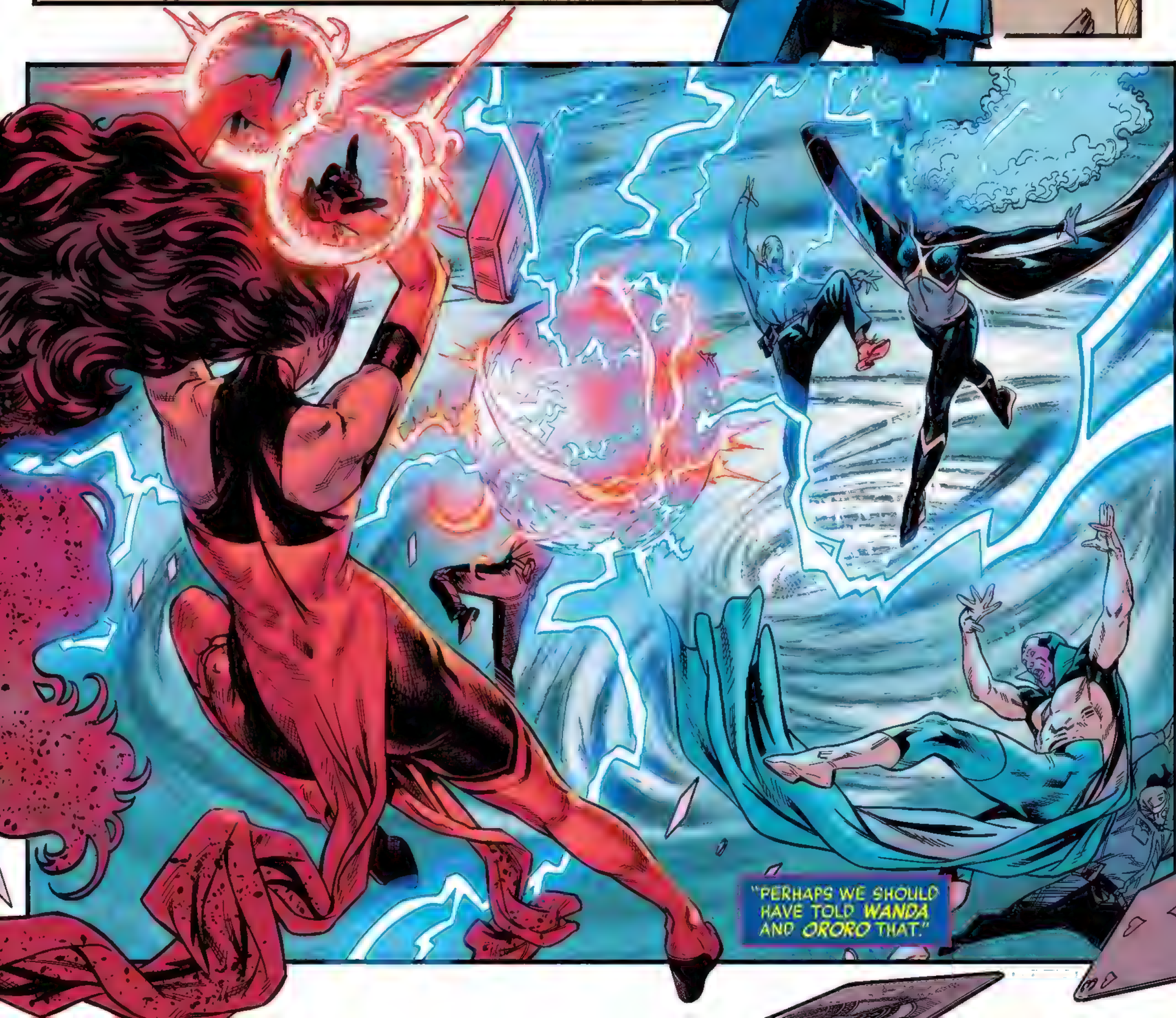
I CAN
LITERALLY BLAST
THIS DOOR OFF ITS
HINGES. I CAN MELT
IT DOWN TO SLAG.
I CAN PUNCH
THROUGH IT.

YES, YES,
YOU'RE CAPTAIN
MARVEL, YOU'RE A
BEING OF DIRE
COSMIC IMPORT.
I GET IT.

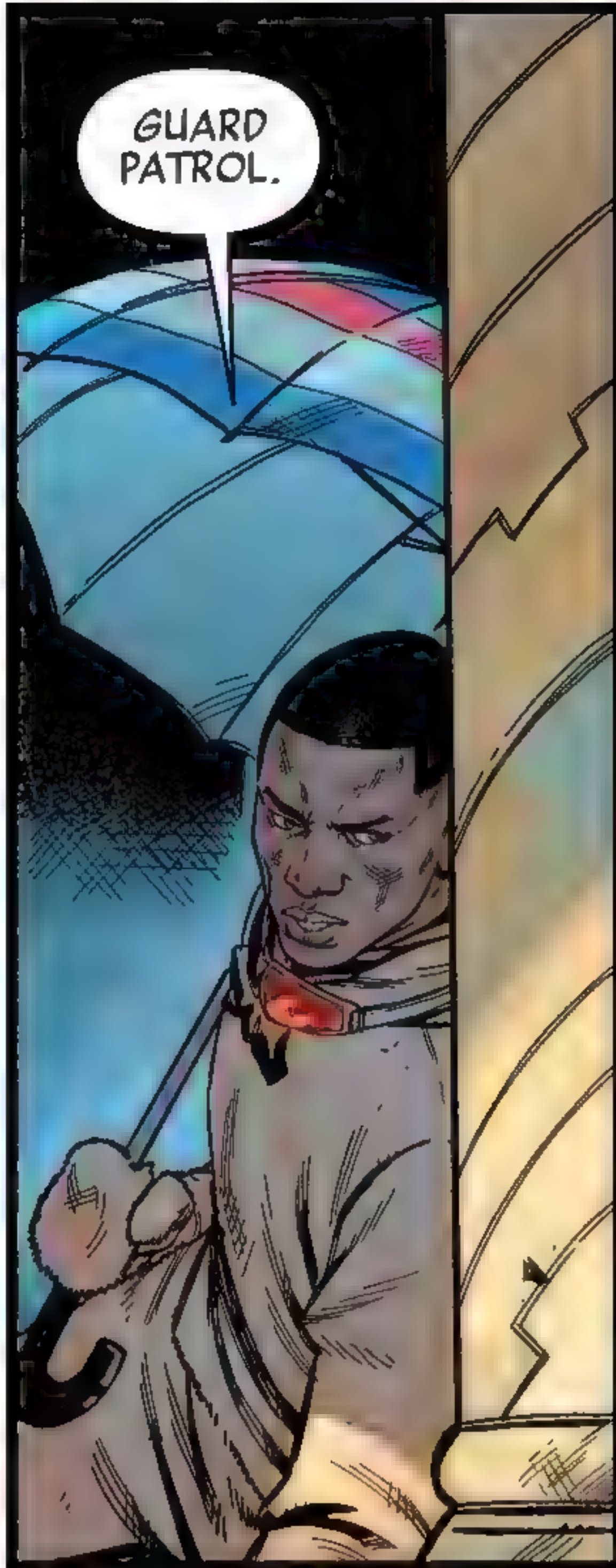
BUT WE
ARE TRYING
TO DO THIS
QUIETLY.

BOOM

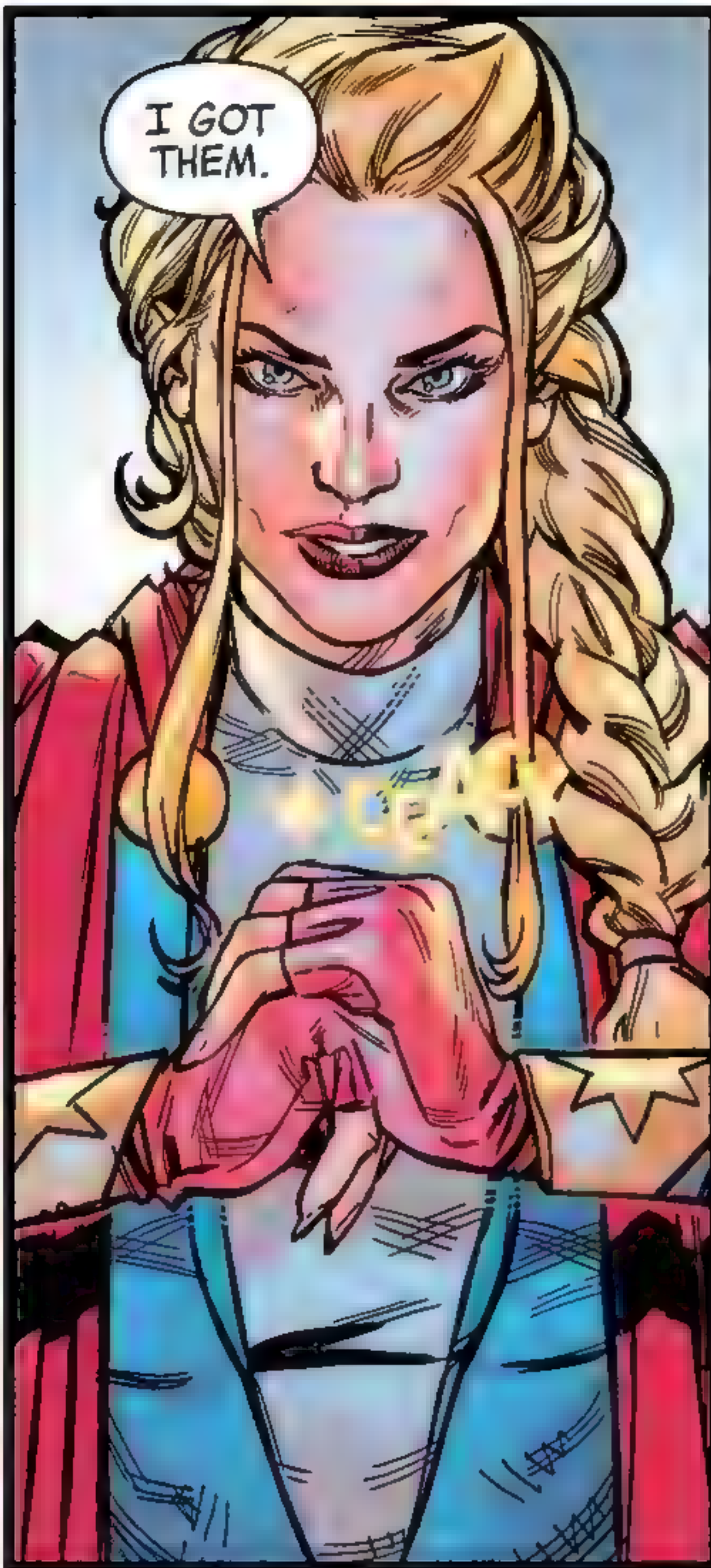
WELL.



"PERHAPS WE SHOULD
HAVE TOLD WANDA
AND ORORO THAT."



GUARD
PATROL.

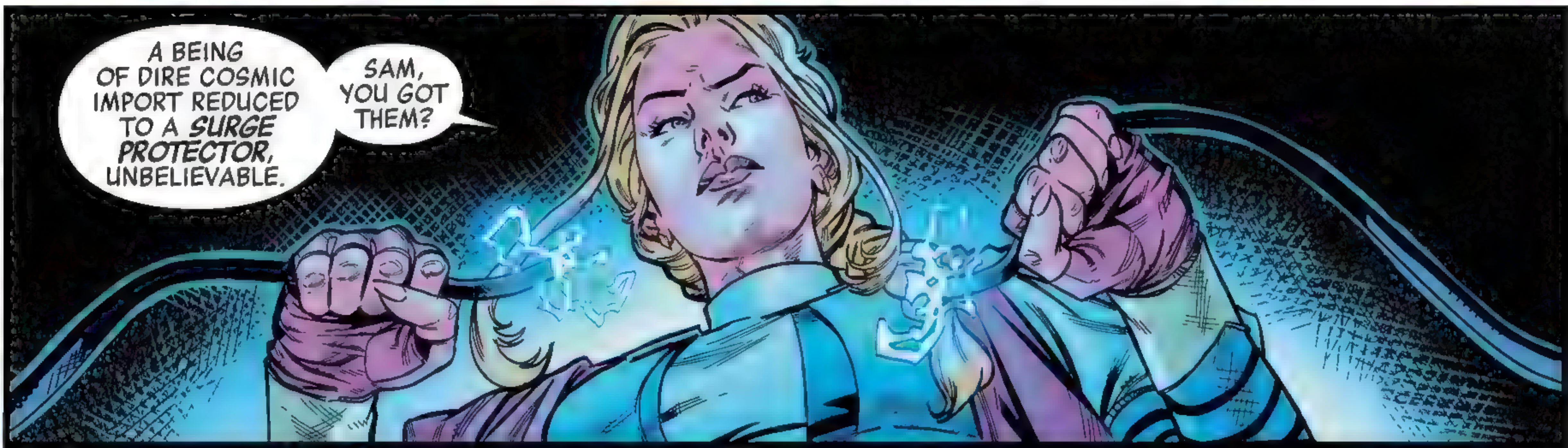


I GOT
THEM.



I NEED
YOU *HERE*.

TAKE THIS.
THERE'S GOING TO
BE A POWER SURGE
THAT WILL TRIP THE
ALARM--YOU HAVE TO
ABSORB THE ENERGY
BEFORE IT FIRES.

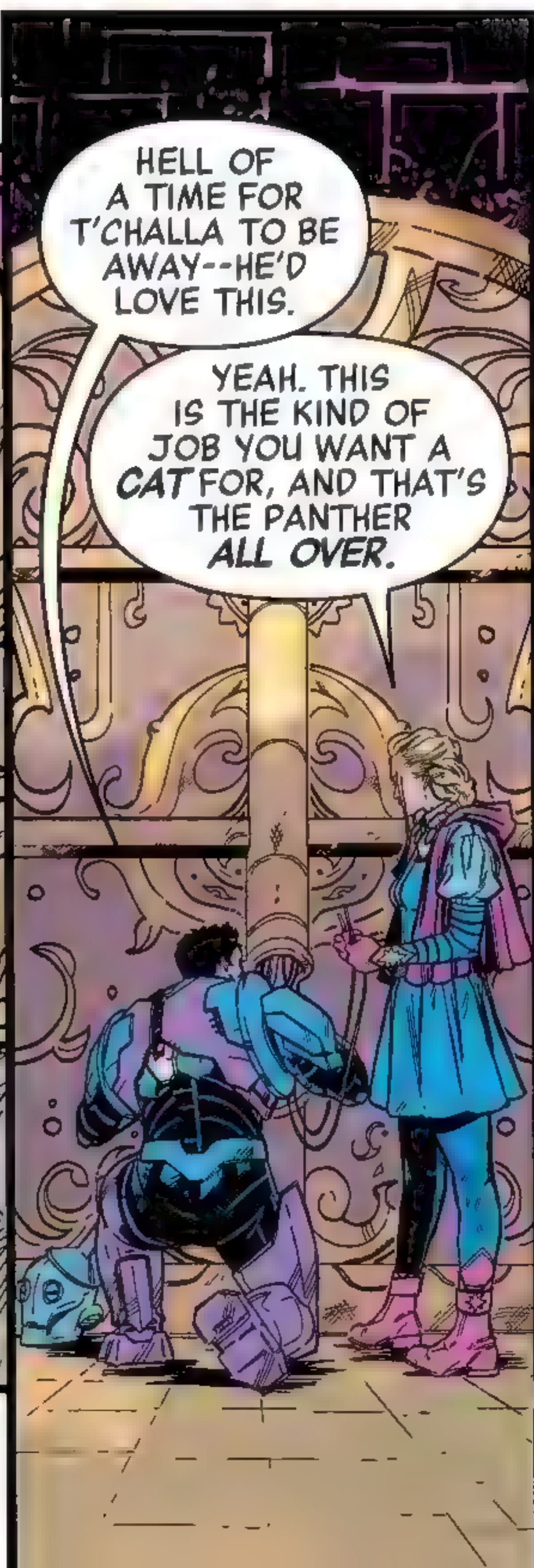


A BEING
OF DIRE COSMIC
IMPORT REDUCED
TO A *SURGE*
PROTECTOR,
UNBELIEVABLE.

SAM,
YOU GOT
THEM?



OH,
I GOT
THEM.



HELL OF
A TIME FOR
T'CHALLA TO BE
AWAY--HE'D
LOVE THIS.

YEAH. THIS
IS THE KIND OF
JOB YOU WANT A
CAT FOR, AND THAT'S
THE PANTHER
ALL OVER.



"SO, THE PRIZE IS
ON THE OTHER SIDE
OF THIS DOOR?"



YES.
AND SO
FAR, WE'VE
BEEN VERY
LUCKY.



"LET'S JUST
HOPE OUR
LUCK HOLDS."



THAT'S
THE PROBLEM
WITH CASINOS,
CAROL.

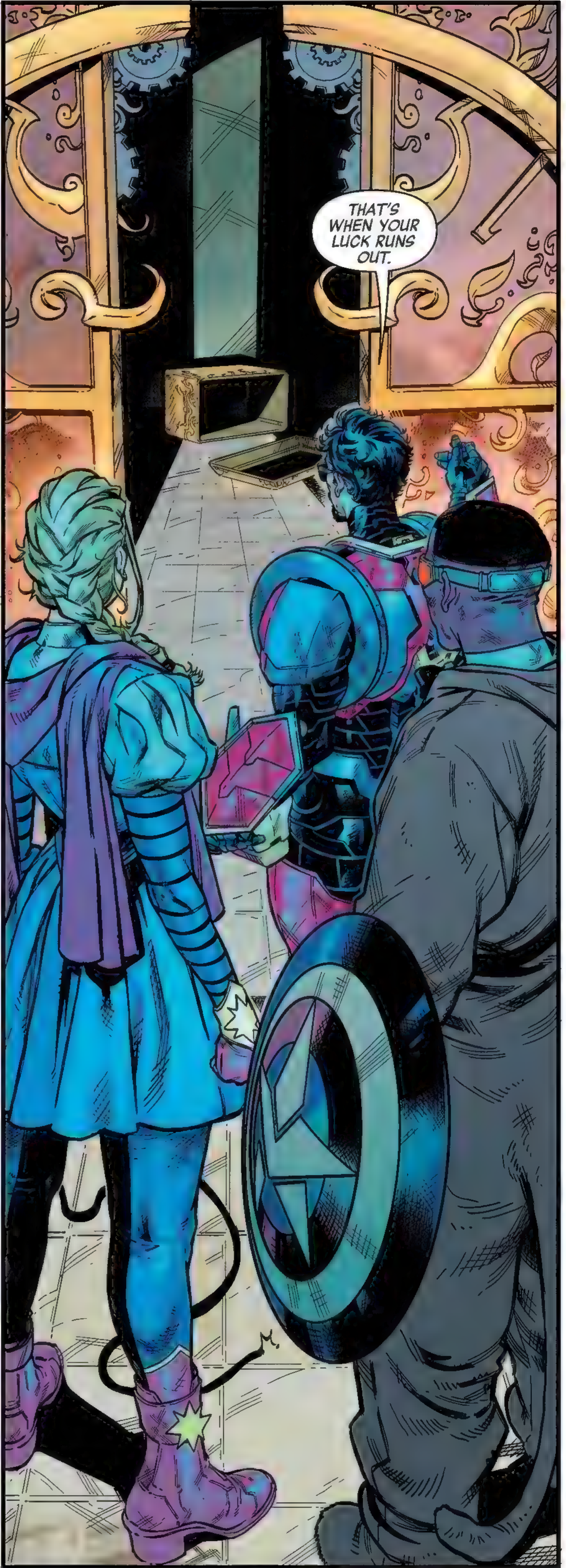
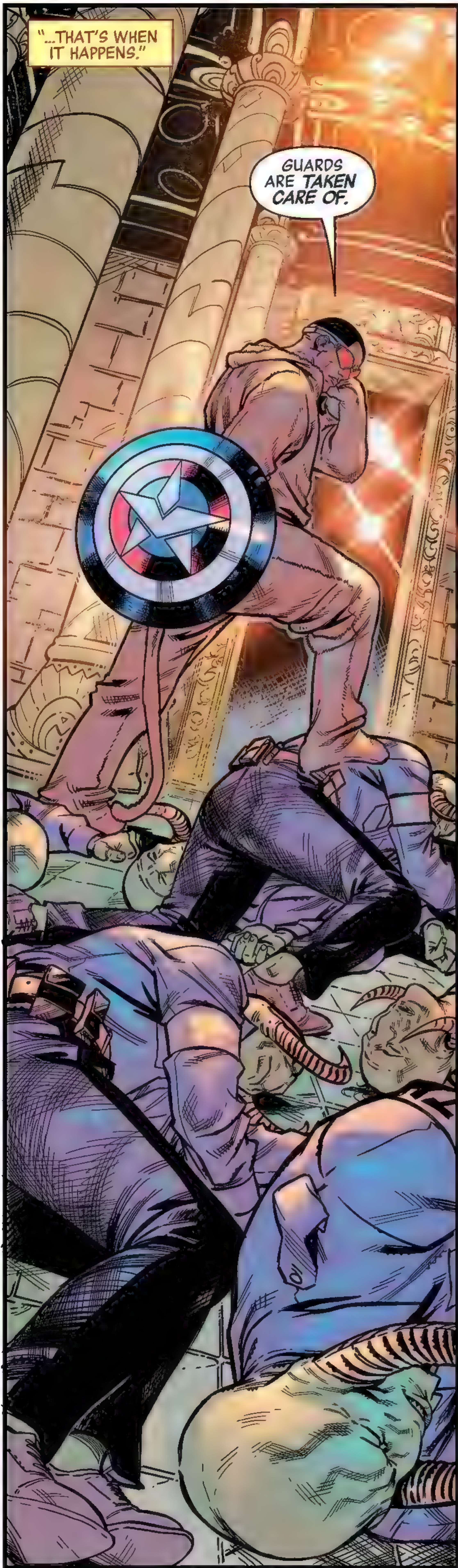
EVERYONE
THINKS THEIR
LUCK IS GOING
TO HOLD.



POWER SURGE
ABSORBED.

LET'S
CRACK THIS
VAULT.

BUT THEN,
JUST WHEN YOU
NEED THAT HARD
EIGHT, THAT LAST
QUEEN, THAT BALL
TO LAND ON
BLACK...





IT'S
EMPTY.
WHY IS IT
EMPTY?

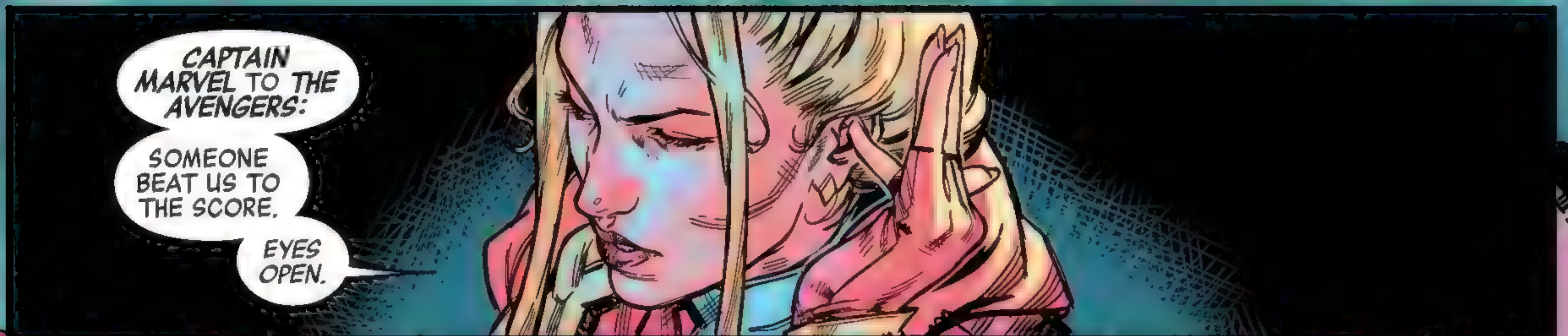
DID THEY
MOVE IT? OR
DID WE BREAK INTO
THE **WRONG**
VAULT?



SOMETHING'S
GOING ON.

IT DIDN'T
GET MOVED.
IT'S THE RIGHT
VAULT.

SOMEONE
STOLE THE DATA
ARCHIVE BEFORE
WE COULD.



**CAPTAIN
MARVEL TO THE
AVENGERS:**

SOMEONE
BEAT US TO
THE SCORE.

EYES
OPEN.



**VISION TO THE
AVENGERS:**

SCANNING
THE CROWD--



--SCANNING--

FACIAL
RECOGNITION...
HIT.

I--

I KNOW
WHO HAS
BEATEN US TO
THE PRIZE.

WHO?!

NATHANIEL
RICHARDS.

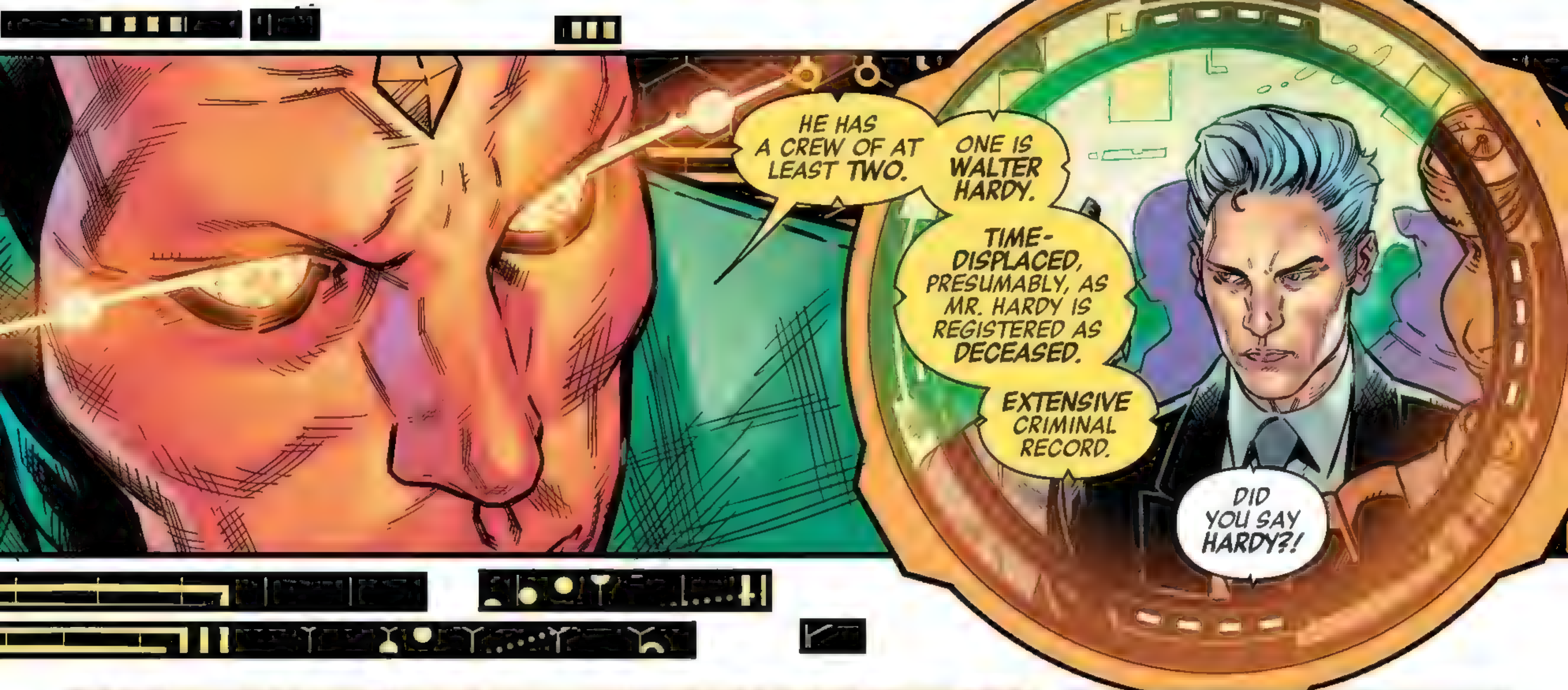
KANG THE
CONQUEROR.

FACE



ON HIS OWN?

NO.



HE HAS A CREW OF AT LEAST TWO.

ONE IS WALTER HARDY.

TIME-DISPLACED, PRESUMABLY, AS MR. HARDY IS REGISTERED AS DECEASED.

EXTENSIVE CRIMINAL RECORD.

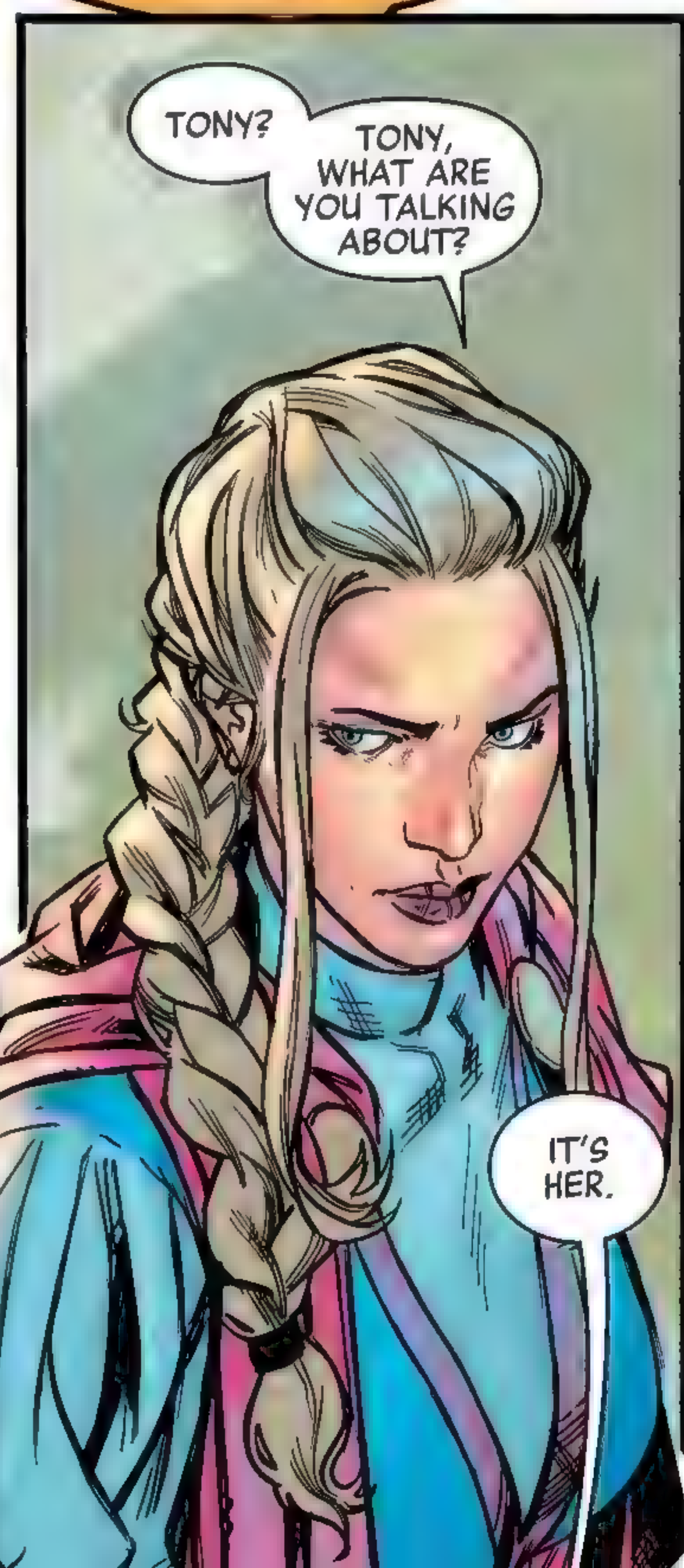
DID YOU SAY HARDY?!



IT'S HER.

SHE CAN'T LEAVE ME ALONE.

SHE'S TRYING TO RUIN MY LIFE AGAIN.



TONY?

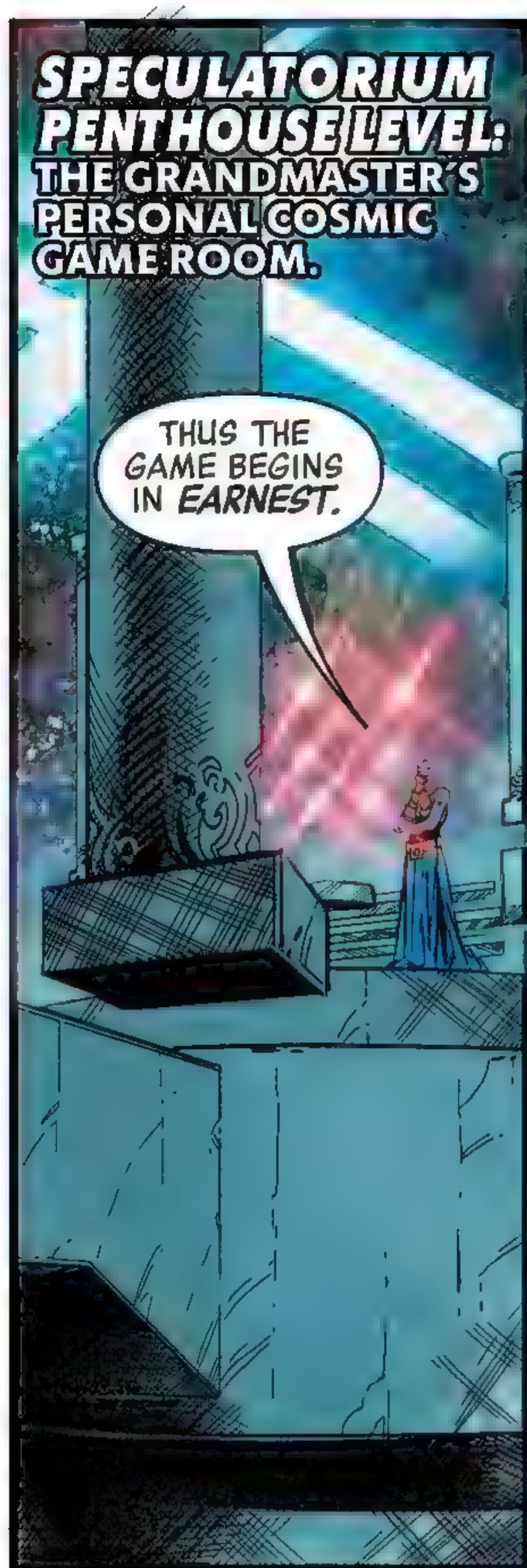
TONY, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IT'S HER.

"FELICIA
HARDY."

THE BLACK CAT!







NO, KEEP
YOUR AVENGERS,
GRANDMASTER.

BUT DO NOT
DISMISS MYRDDIN'S
PATRONAGE FOR
AFFECTION...

...FOR
THIS IS ALL TO
KANG'S GREATER
TORMENTS.



NOW.
THE SPECULATORIUM OF
ENDWIGAST,
THE GRANDMASTER.

CONSIDER
THE CAT

THIS CAT, IN
PARTICULAR. THE
BLACK CAT.
FELICIA HARDY

ME

AND MY
ACCOMPLICE,
KANG

I KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
THINKING

"FELICIA, WHY ARE
YOU WORKING FOR
KANG THE CONQUEROR?
AND AGAINST
THE AVENGERS?"

"ISN'T
THAT VILLAIN
BEHAVIOR?"

TO WHICH I REPLY:
YES, SURE, IT CAN
SEEM THAT WAY.

BUT KANG
HAD A REALLY
GREAT PITCH.



THEN.
THE FABULOUS HIDEOUT
OFFELICIA HARDY,
THE BLACK CAT.

SO, YOU'RE
KANG THE
CONQUEROR.

I
AM.

AND YOU
WANT *ME* TO HELP
YOU ROB SOMETHING
CALLED AN "ELDER OF
THE UNIVERSE."

I
DO.

AND YOU
COULD HAVE ASKED
LITERALLY *ANY* THIEF
FROM THE *PAST* AND
FUTURE OF THE ENTIRE
HUMAN RACE, BUT
YOU'RE *HERE*, NOW,
ASKING *ME*.

I
AM.

OH
YOU.

FLATTERY
WILL GET YOU
EVERYWHERE.

SEE?





I AM NOT ACCUSTOMED TO RUNNING.

OF COURSE YOU'RE NOT.

THAT'S WHY YOU NEEDED A THIEF.

NEEDED ME, AS YOU SO FLATTERINGLY PUT IT.



YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF YOU HAVE ME SECOND-GUESSING MYSELF.



PFF.

HOW DO YOU GET ANY CONQUERING DONE WITH THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE?





**THEN.
66 MILLION YEARS
INTO THE PAST.**

WOW.

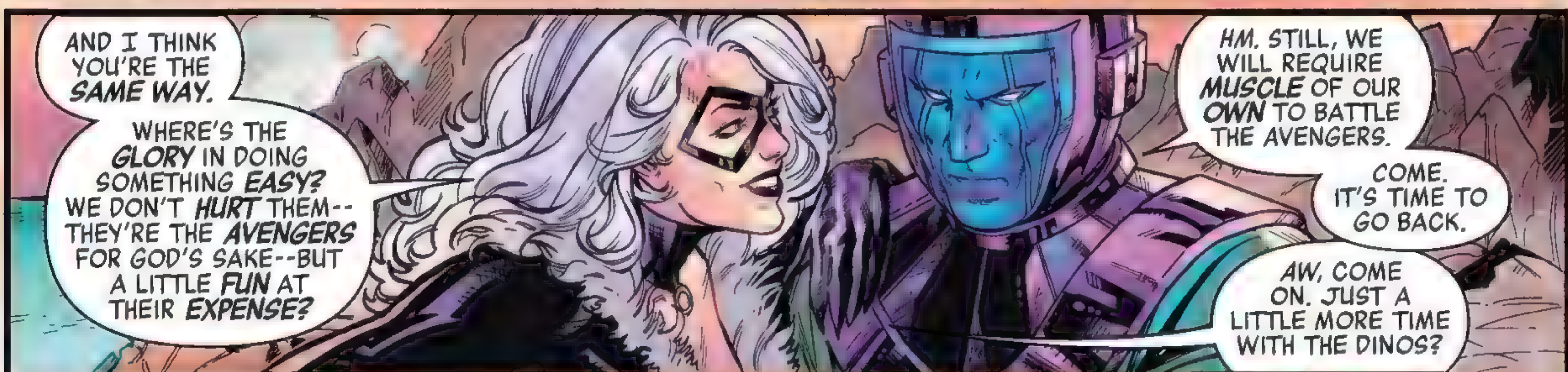
NOW THAT'S
SOMETHING
TO SEE.



TELL ME *AGAIN* WHY WE
SHOULD DO THIS WHILE THE
AVENGERS ARE *ALSO*
SEEKING MY PRIZE?

BECAUSE WITH
MY *BRAINS* AND
YOUR *EFFECTIVELY*
INFINITE RESOURCES?
THIS THING'S TOO
EASY.

THAT, AND I
WANT TO SEE IF I
CAN MAKE IRON MAN
SO MAD HE HAS A
STROKE.



AND I THINK
YOU'RE THE
SAME WAY.

WHERE'S THE
GLORY IN DOING
SOMETHING *EASY*?
WE DON'T *HURT* THEM--
THEY'RE THE *AVENGERS*
FOR GOD'S SAKE--BUT
A LITTLE *FUN* AT
THEIR *EXPENSE*?

HM. STILL, WE
WILL REQUIRE
MUSCLE OF OUR
OWN TO BATTLE
THE AVENGERS.

COME.
IT'S TIME TO
GO BACK.

AW, COME
ON. JUST A
LITTLE MORE TIME
WITH THE DINOS?



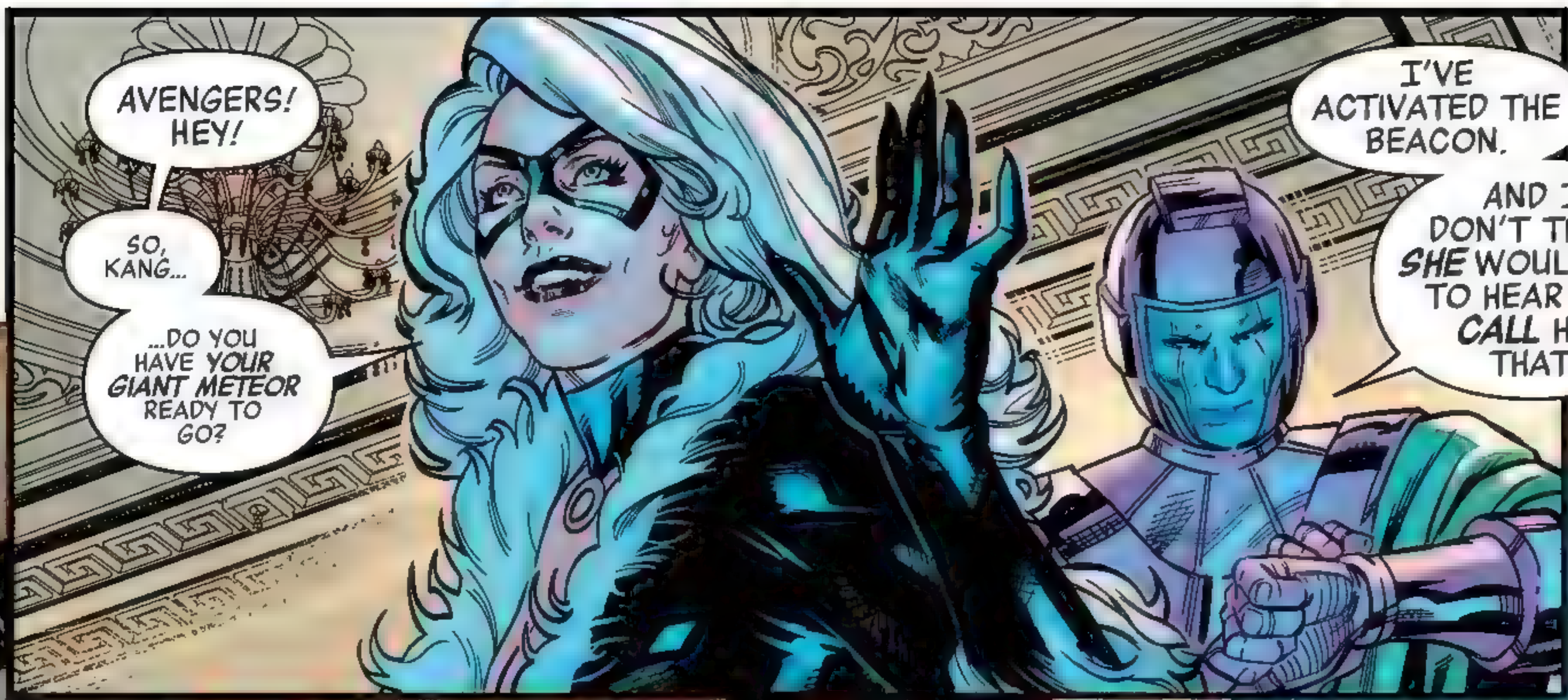
STAY IF YOU
WISH.

BUT I
BROUGHT YOU
TO THIS MOMENT
TO MAKE A
POINT.



BETWEEN THE
GRANDMASTER AND
THE *AVENGERS*, YOU AND
I ARE GOING UP AGAINST
OVERWHELMING
POWER.

IT WOULD
BEHOVE YOU
TO REMEMBER
THAT.



AVENGERS!
HEY!

SO,
KANG...

...DO YOU
HAVE YOUR
GIANT METEOR
READY TO
GO?

I'VE
ACTIVATED THE
BEACON.

AND I
DON'T THINK
SHE WOULD LIKE
TO HEAR YOU
CALL HER
THAT.



KANG.

AND
THE BLACK
CAT.

SURRENDER
THE DATA
ARCHIVE.



AVENGERS.

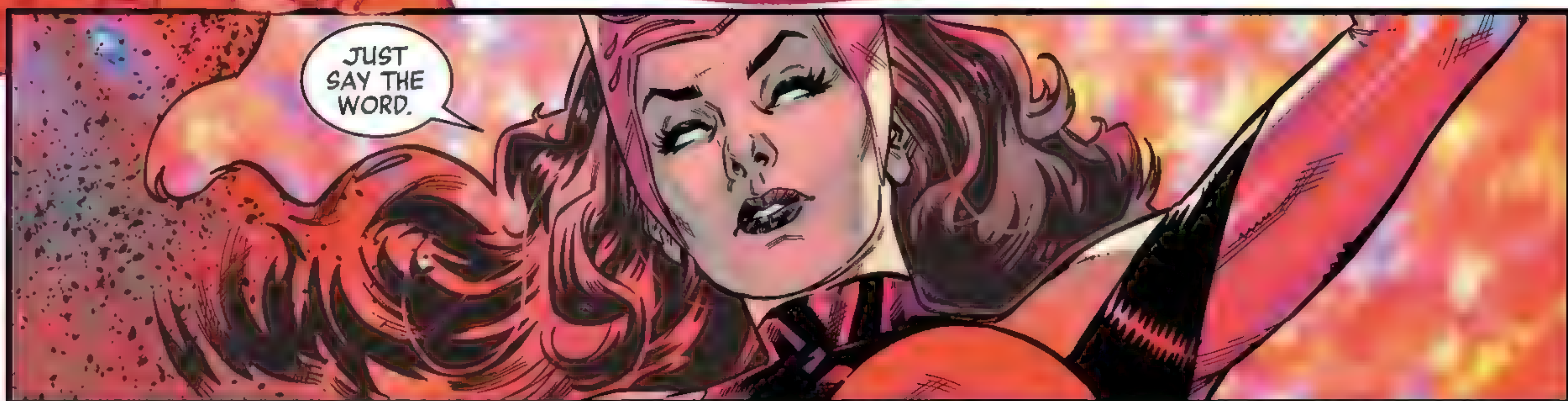
I *TRIED*
TO WORK WITH
YOU, TO *SAVE THE*
WORLD OVER AND
OVER AGAIN FROM
THE TRIBULATION
EVENTS...

...AND
YOU *FAILED*
ME.

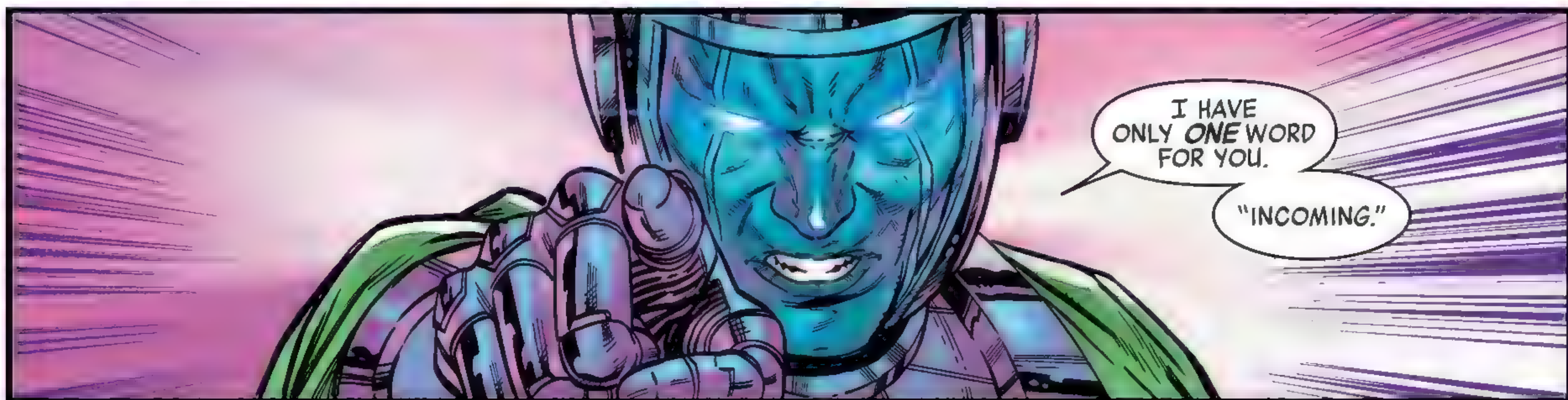


WE CAN
WORK TOGETHER
AGAIN, KANG.

OUR
INTERESTS ARE
ALIGNED. THE
TRIBULATION EVENTS.
THE MISSING
MOMENT.

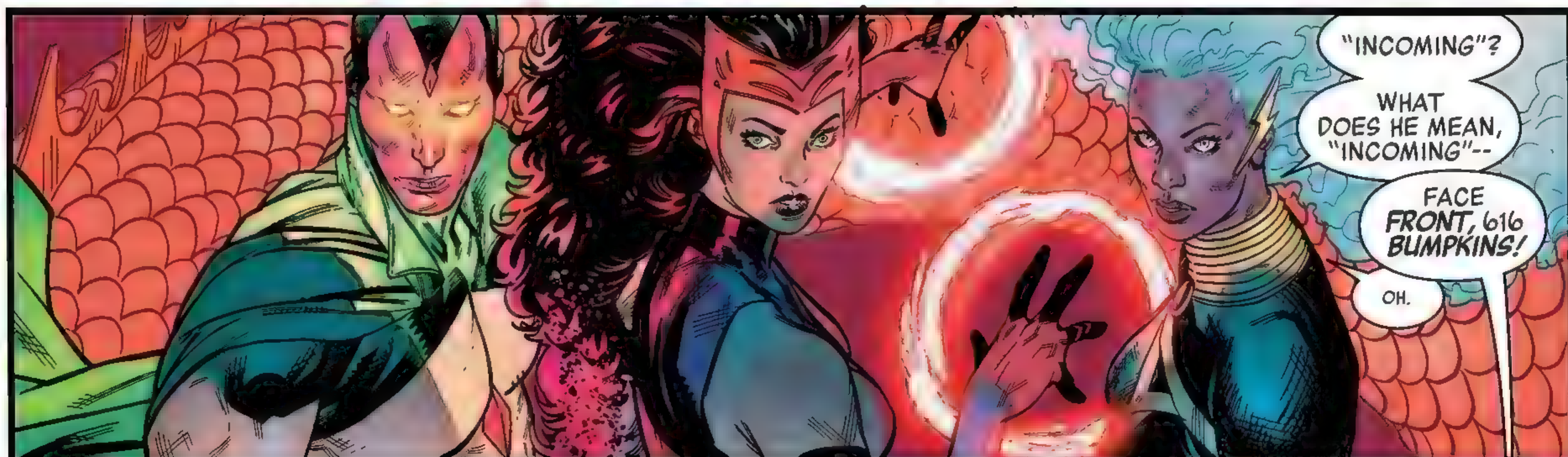


JUST
SAY THE
WORD.



I HAVE
ONLY **ONE** WORD
FOR YOU.

"INCOMING."



"INCOMING"?

WHAT
DOES HE MEAN,
"INCOMING"---

FACE
FRONT, 616
BUMPKINS!

OH.



IT'S
CREDIT-
EARNIN'
TIME!

THEN.

...AVENGERS?

EXCALIBUR,
THE TECHNET HAS
FOUGHT, AND THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR...

...THOUGH
WE DIDN'T DO
SO WELL WITH
ORCHIS...

LOOK.
GATECRASHER.
BABE.

THIS
IS EASY
CREDITS.

THE AVENGERS
ARE WIDELY
REFERRED TO AS
"EARTH'S
MIGHTIEST
HEROES."

WHICH OF
THOSE THREE
WORDS RHYMES
WITH "EASY,"
TINY CAT-
WOMAN?

THE LAST
ONE.

THE
AVENGERS ARE
HEROES.

WHICH MEANS
THEY WILL NOT
KILL YOU OR YOUR
TECHNET, NO MATTER
HOW IRRITATING YOU
MIGHT BE TO
THEM.

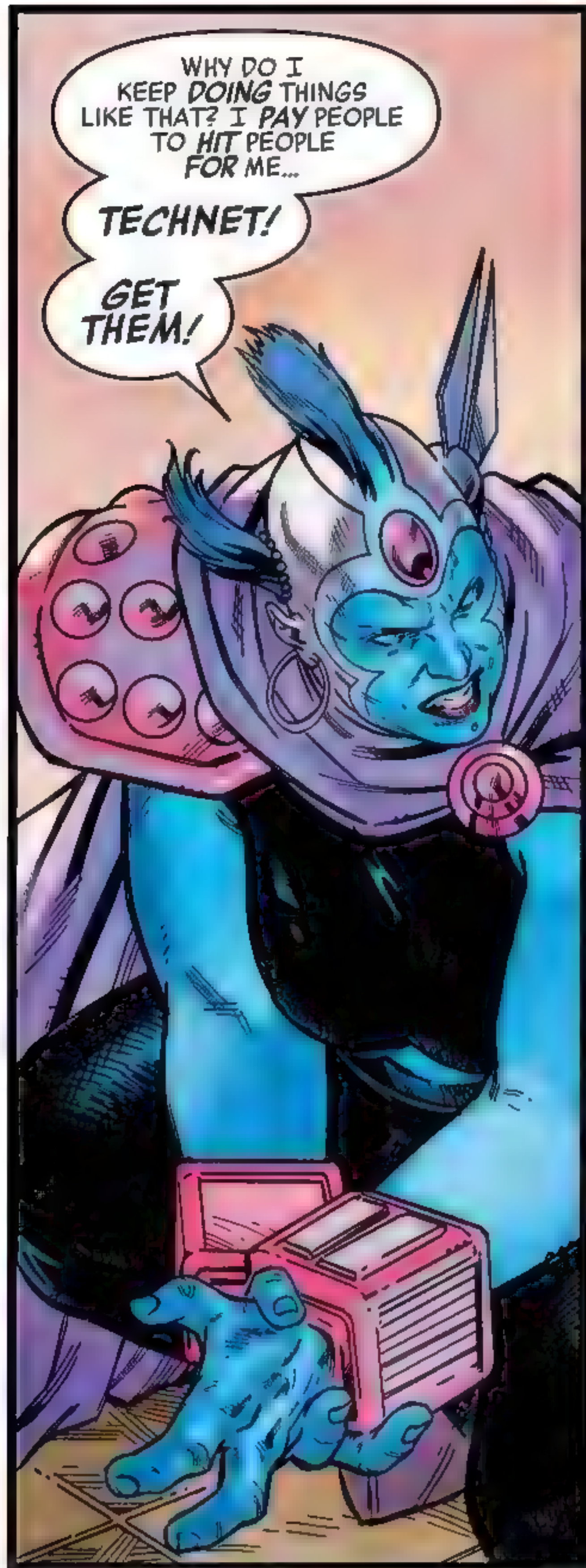
FOR
MERCENARIES,
A GUARANTEE OF
SURVIVAL?

THAT IS
THE VERY
DEFINITION
OF "EASY
CREDITS."

Snee!

Easy
peasy indeedy,
mother!

DON'T
CALL ME THAT,
YAP.



WHY DO I
KEEP DOING THINGS
LIKE THAT? I PAY PEOPLE
TO HIT PEOPLE
FOR ME...

TECHNET!

GET
THEM!



I HAVE
ABOUT HAD MY FILL OF
FOOLISHNESS--



EYES BIGGER THAN
YOUR STOMACH,
ENH?

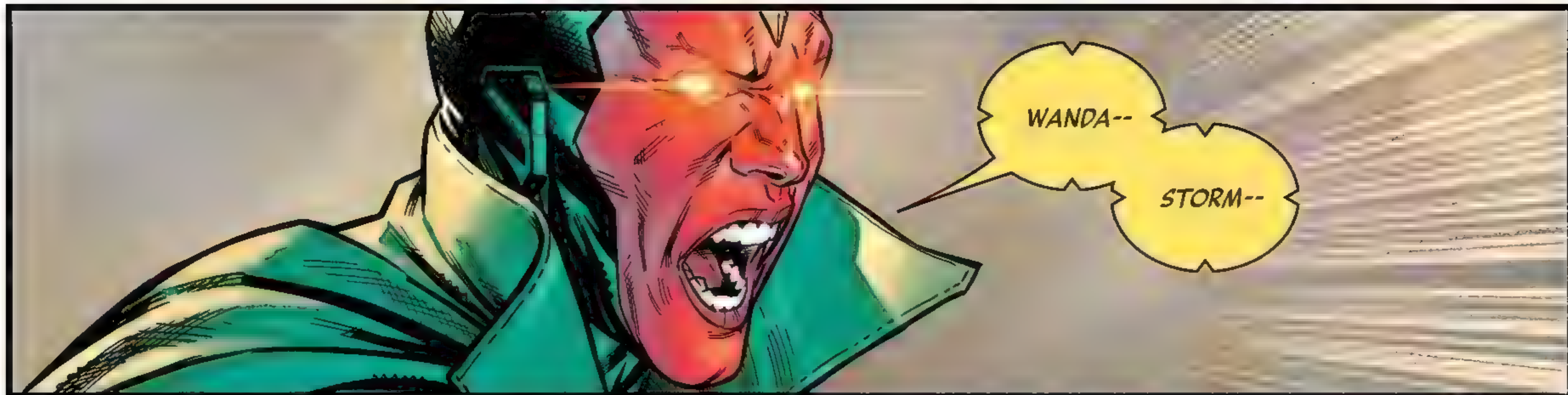
YOU KNOW
WHO HAS YET
TO HAVE THEIR
FILL?



BODYBAG!

HER
PARALYTIC
SLOBBER SHOULD
KEEP YOU OUT
OF OUR HAIR,
WIND-RIDER.

YEURGH!!!





BUT MAYBE
I WILL AFTER
WE'RE DONE
WITH YOU.



I WONDER
WHAT YOU'LL
SAY THEN?

=GULP=



HOW LONG DO YOU THINK GATECRASHER'S GANG CAN KEEP THE AVENGERS OCCUPIED?

LONG ENOUGH, ONE HOPES.

THEY ARE POSSESSED OF MYRIAD BIZARRE GIFTS...

"...CHIEF AMONG THEM BEING SHEER AGGRAVATION."

HANDS OFF, CREEP.

I'VE GOT THE FILES ON THESE JOKERS LOADED UP.

CAPTAIN AMERICA, DON'T LET WAXWORKS GET AHEAD OF YOU--IT'LL MELT YOUR BONES!

BACK AT YOU, IRON MAN-- YOU'VE GOT A FLOATING BABY COMING AFTER YOU--

AH NO, NOT JOYBOY--

--HE TURNS YOU INTO YOUR DEEPEST WISH--

OH, WELL THIS IS EMBARRASSING--



ENOUGH!

ENOUGH!



LIVING
DARKHOLD
ALERT!

SCATTERBRAIN,
TAKE HER OUT!

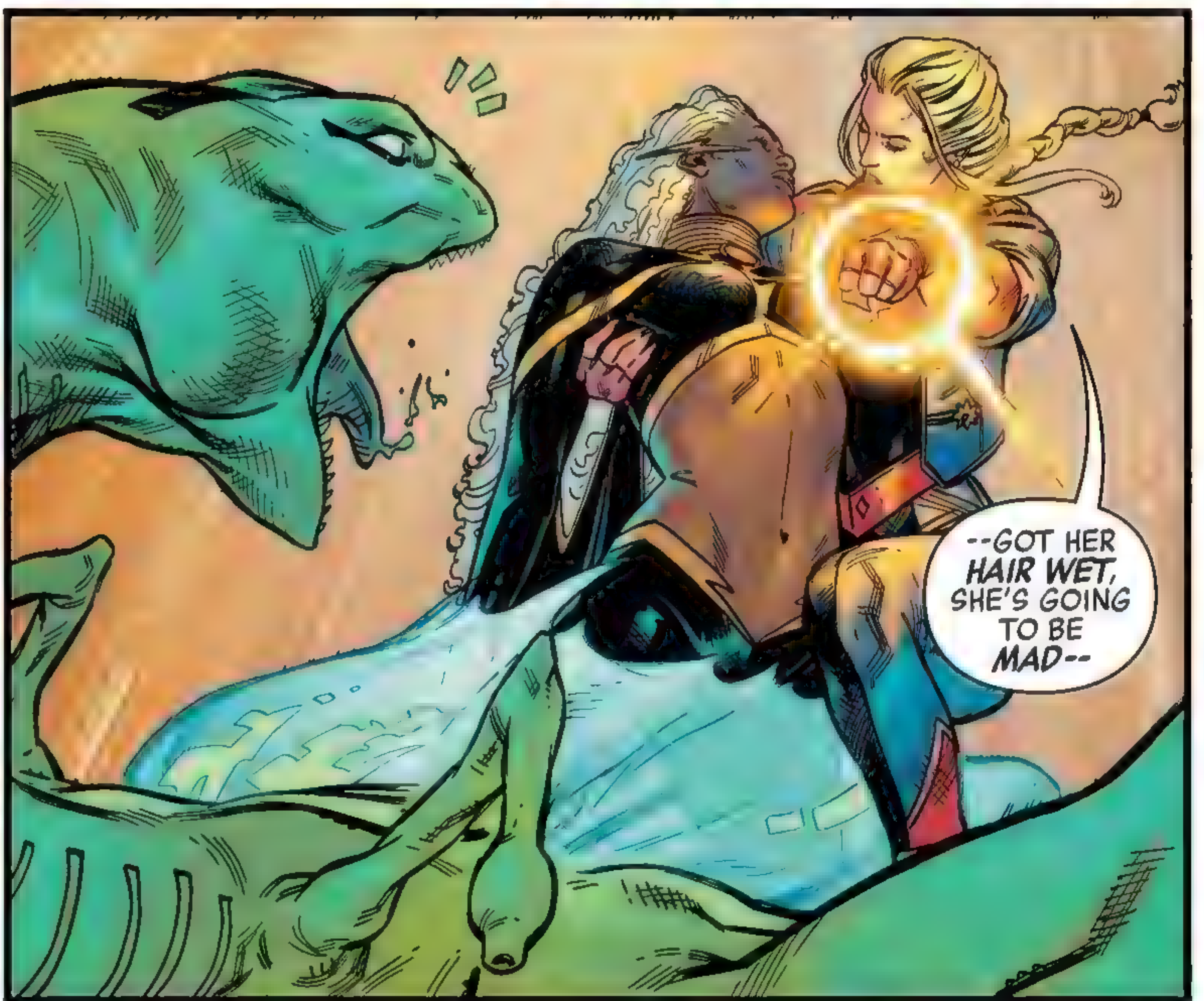


I WOULDN'T
TRY TO TOUCH
MY SYNAPSES.

IT IS NOT
ELECTRICITY
THAT RUNS
THROUGH MY BRAIN,
MY NERVES, BUT
RAW CHAOS.



BUT BY
ALL MEANS,
TRY.





HA!
THE AVENGERS
MADE FOOLS OF
TWICE OVER, AND
THE DOOR WITHIN
SIGHT--

KANG,
DON'T,
YOU'RE GOING
TO JINX IT--

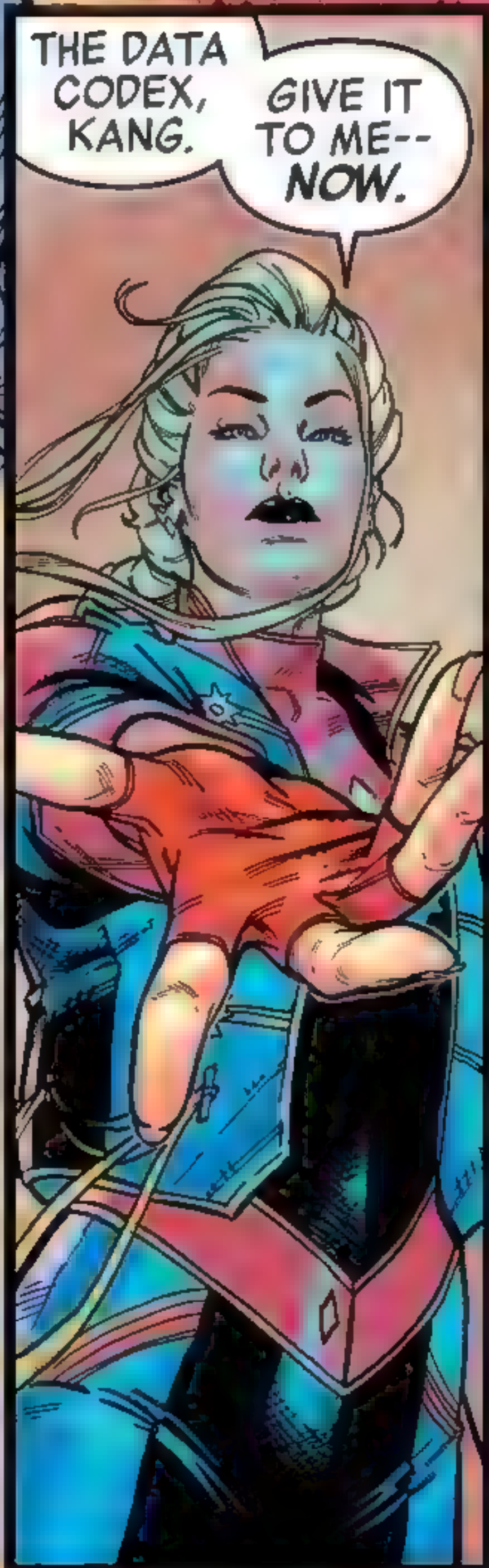


AHHHH
NUTS.



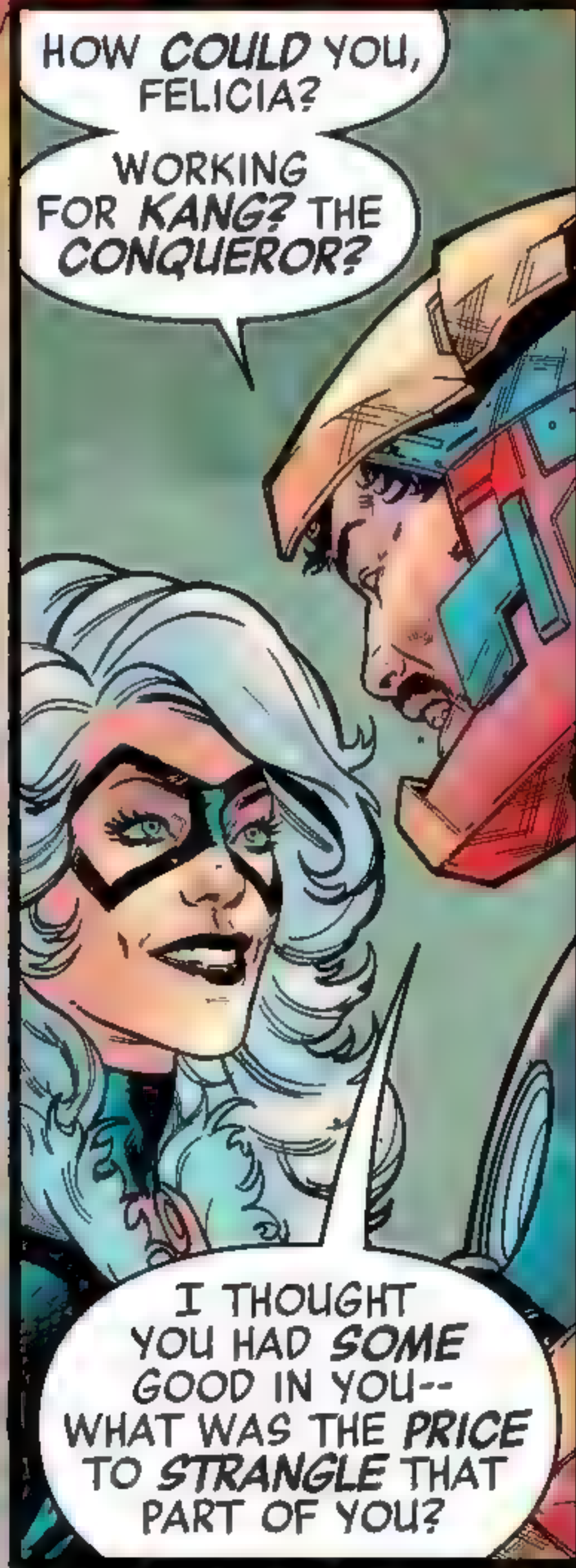
WELL
HEY THERE,
FELICIA.

HEYA,
TONY.
BEEN A
LITTLE WHILE,
HUH?



THE DATA
CODEX,
KANG.

GIVE IT
TO ME--
NOW.



HOW COULD YOU,
FELICIA?

WORKING
FOR KANG? THE
CONQUEROR?

I THOUGHT
YOU HAD *SOME*
GOOD IN YOU--
WHAT WAS THE *PRICE*
TO *STRANGLE* THAT
PART OF YOU?

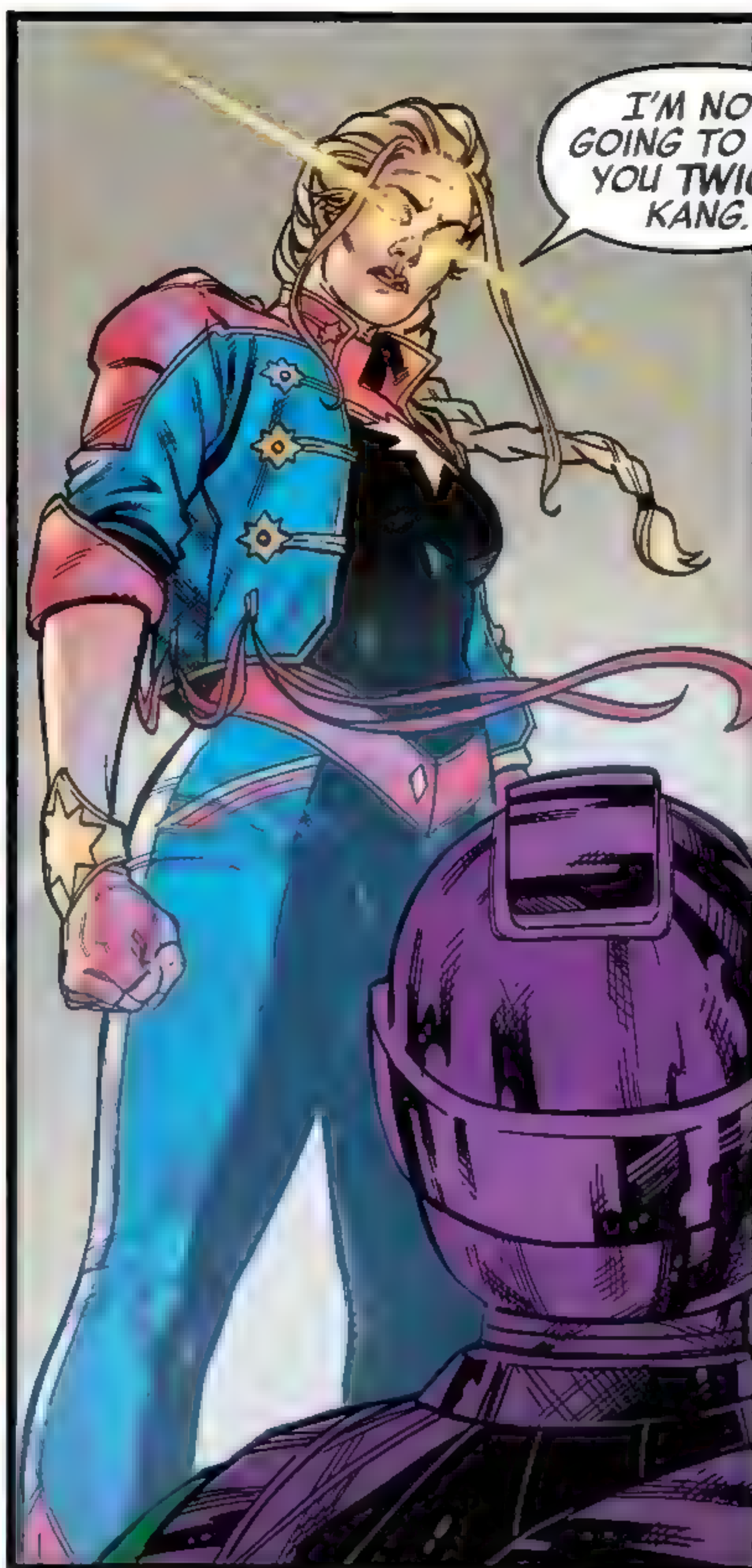


FIRST OFF, I DID A JOB FOR THE DEVIL--

--A DEVIL?--

--NOT LONG AGO,* SO LET'S NOT GIVE ME TOO MUCH CREDIT.

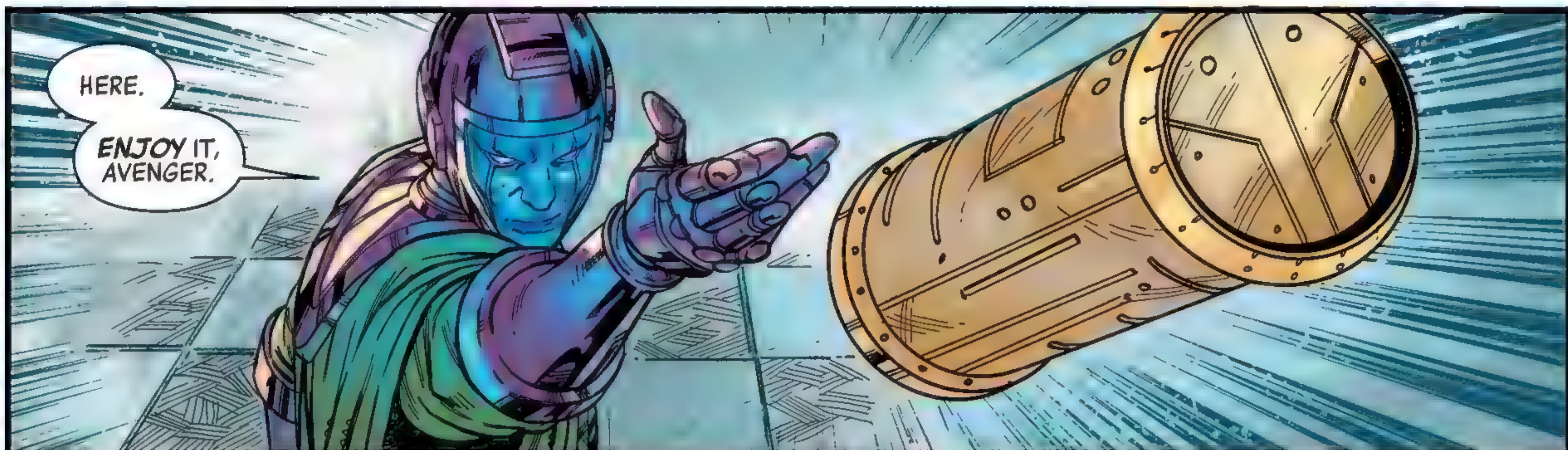
*MARY JANE & BLACK CAT: DARK WEB!



I'M NOT GOING TO ASK YOU TWICE, KANG.



BUT I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR SOMETHING SO EMBARRASSING AS MONEY...



HERE.

ENJOY IT, AVENGER.



IT'S--

IT'S EMPTY--



...THERE WAS SOMETHING ONLY KANG COULD OFFER ME.

**THEN.
TWENTY YEARS INTO THE PAST.**

...I DON'T
CARE ABOUT
THE MONEY, KANG.
NOT REALLY.

I'M IN THIS
GAME FOR THE
EXPERIENCES.

...WE
HAVE THAT
IN **COMMON**,
THEN.

SO YOU
WANTED TO
KNOW WHAT MY
PRICE FOR
THIS CAPER
WAS?

IT'S
THIS.

WALTER
HARDY.

WHO--?

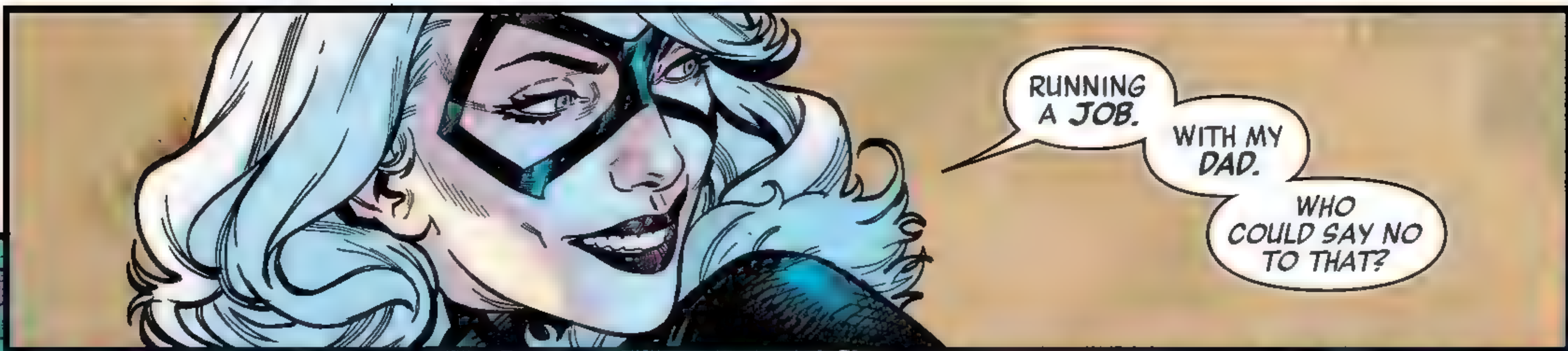
RELAX,
WALT. WE'RE
NOT COPS, AND
WE'RE NOT
GUILD.

THIS IS
MR. KANG,
AND I'M THE
**BLACK
CAT.**

WE'RE
PUTTING A JOB
TOGETHER.

IT'S LIKE
NOTHING
YOU'VE **EVER**
DONE,
BELIEVE
ME.

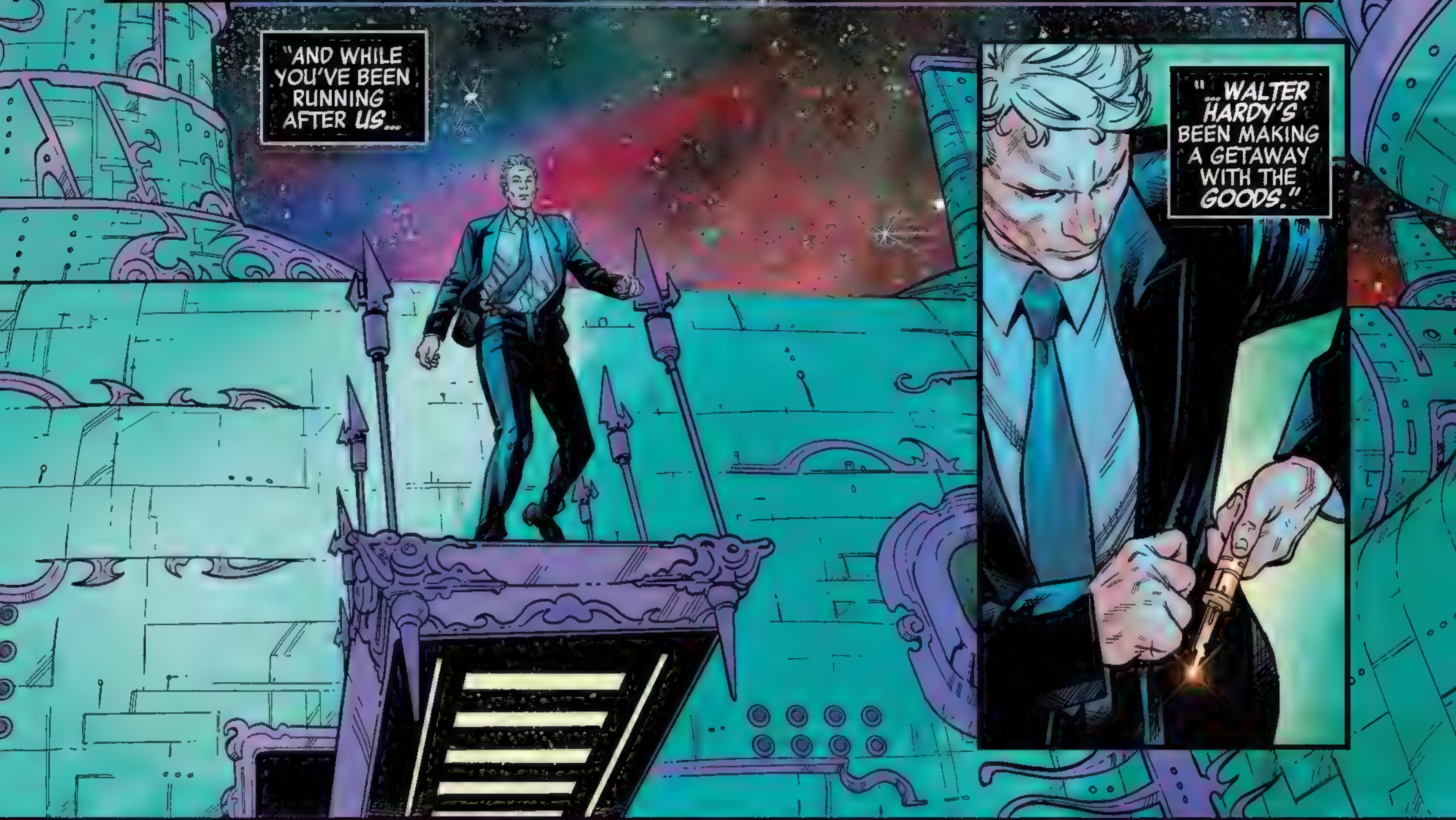
AND I
WANT YOU
ON THE
CREW.



RUNNING
A JOB.

WITH MY
DAD.

WHO
COULD SAY NO
TO THAT?



"AND WHILE
YOU'VE BEEN
RUNNING
AFTER US..."

"WALTER
HARDY'S
BEEN MAKING
A GETAWAY
WITH THE
GOODS."



WHICH IS
THE SIGNAL
MY WARRIORS
HAVE BEEN
WAITING
FOR.

WHAT IS
HAPPENING--

--HUNDREDS
OF GRAVIMETRIC
WARP SIGNATURES
APPEARING FROM
NOWHERE--

I HAD
ADVISED YOU NOT
TO UNDERESTIMATE
THE CONQUEROR,
GRANDMASTER.

"YOU SHOULD
KNOW, AVENGERS,
THAT KANG THE
CONQUEROR IS
NEVER ALONE."

KANG FLEET LEAR.
FRESHLY ARRIVED FROM WARPSPACE!

KANG
TO ALL
POINTS:

WEAPONS
HOT.





THE SPECULATORIUM OF EN DWI GAST.
CURRENTLY UNDER ATTACK BY KANG FLEET LEAR.



THE GRANDMASTER'S PERSONAL COSMIC GAME ROOM.

AN ENTIRE
WAR FLEET--

HE'S GOING
TO DESTROY MY
SPECULATORIUM!

HA!

OH,
GRANDMASTER,
DID I NOT CAUTION
YOU AGAINST
UNDERESTIMATING
KANG?

I WILL NOT
COUNTESSANCE
SUCH AN INSULT TO
MY PROPERTY!

I POSSESS THE
POWER PRIMORDIAL--
EVEN A WAR FLEET IS
NOTHING IN THE FACE OF
THE POWERS I CAN
MUSTER--

OH, FOR
SHAME!

THE GAME
IS STILL ON,
GRANDMASTER.

OUR
WAGER
IS STILL IN
EFFECT.

CHEATER?!

YOU CANNOT
TAKE A DIRECT HAND.
UNLESS YOU WISH ALL
THE COSMOS TO
KNOW YOU AS A
CHEATER...?

NO, I FEAR
THAT YOU MUST
LET THE DICE...

"...FALL WHERE
THEY MAY."

HA HA HA!

ENOUGH OF
SUBTERFUGE.
ENOUGH OF *PLOTS.*
ENOUGH OF *HIDING*
MY POWER.

NOW
COMES THE
CONQUERING.

YOU HAVE
BATTERED AND
BELITTLED KANG
FOR LONG
ENOUGH.

WITNESS
NOW MY GRASP,
AVENGERS.



KANG--

--THERE ARE
HUNDREDS OF
PEOPLE HERE!
THOUSANDS!

YOU'D LET
THEM ALL DIE...
FOR WHAT, TO
PROVE A
POINT?

WITHOUT
A SECOND
THOUGHT.
WITHOUT EVEN
A FIRST.

AH.
THERE IT
IS.

CRITICAL
DAMAGE TO
SPECULATORIUM
INFRASTRUCTURE...

...WHICH MEANS
TELEPORT SHIELDING
IS DOWN.



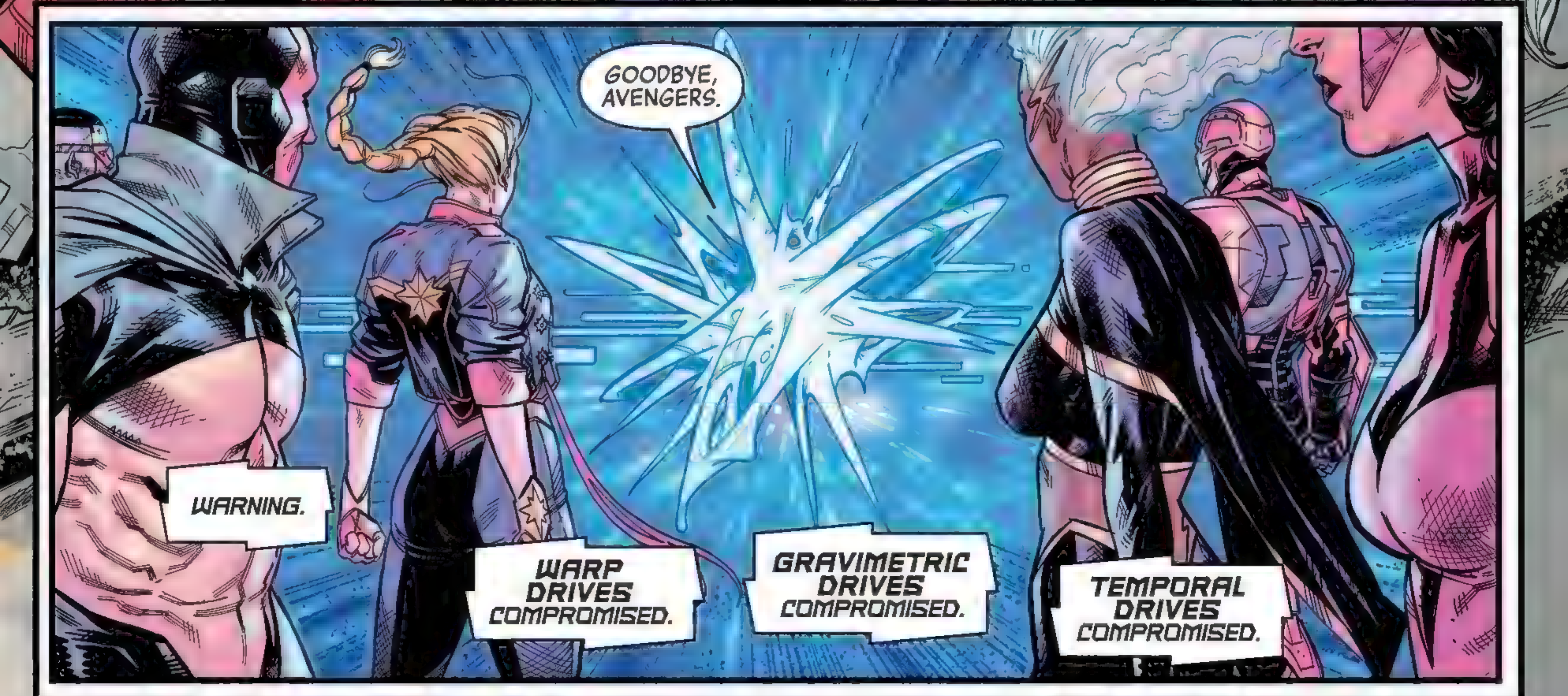
GOODBYE,
AVENGERS.

WARNING.

WARP
DRIVES
COMPROMISED.

GRAVIMETRIC
DRIVES
COMPROMISED.

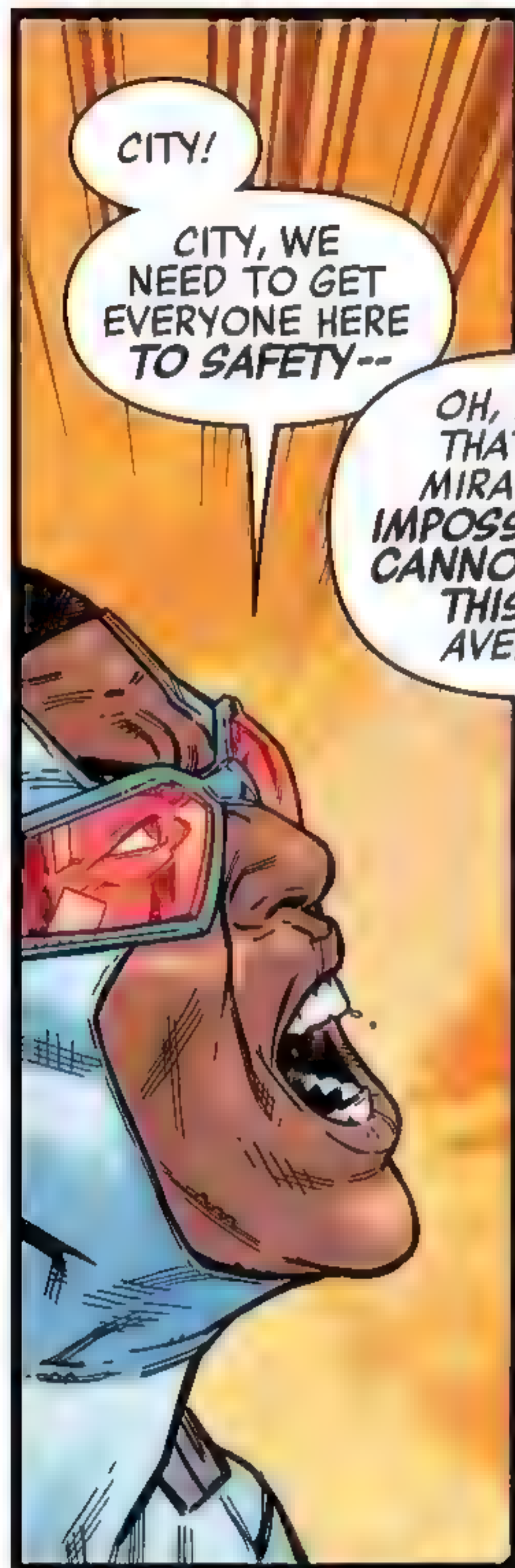
TEMPORAL
DRIVES
COMPROMISED.





SPACE-TIME
CATAclysm
IMMINENT.

NO.
NO.



CITY!

CITY, WE
NEED TO GET
EVERYONE HERE
TO SAFETY--

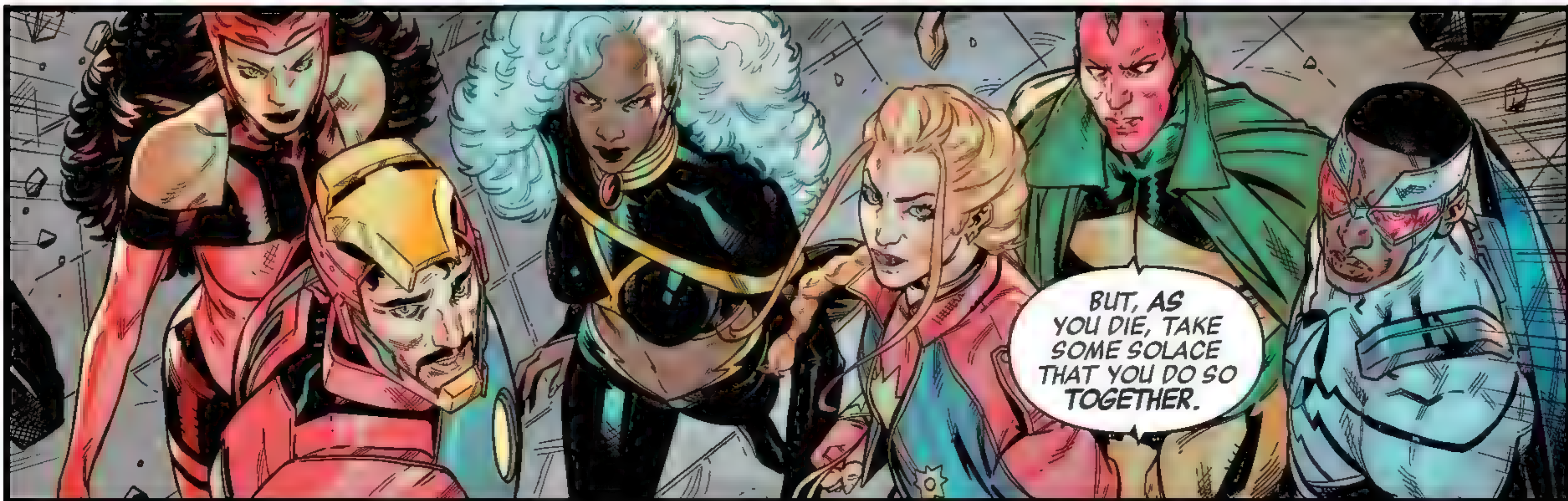
OH, I FEAR
THAT YOUR
MIRACULOUS
IMPOSSIBLE CITY
CANNOT AID YOU
THIS TIME,
AVENGERS.



MY FLEET IS
JAMMING ANY
SIGNAL YOU MIGHT
ATTEMPT TO
SEND.

YOU ARE
GOING TO DIE,
AVENGERS.

AND YOU ARE
GOING TO DIE WITH
ALL THOSE PEOPLE
YOU COULDN'T
SAVE.



BUT, AS
YOU DIE, TAKE
SOME SOLACE
THAT YOU DO SO
TOGETHER.

"AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE."





HEH.
HELMSMAN,
WARP THE FLEET OUT
BEFORE THIS *SPACE-TIME*
ANOMALY MAKES IT
IMPOSSIBLE.



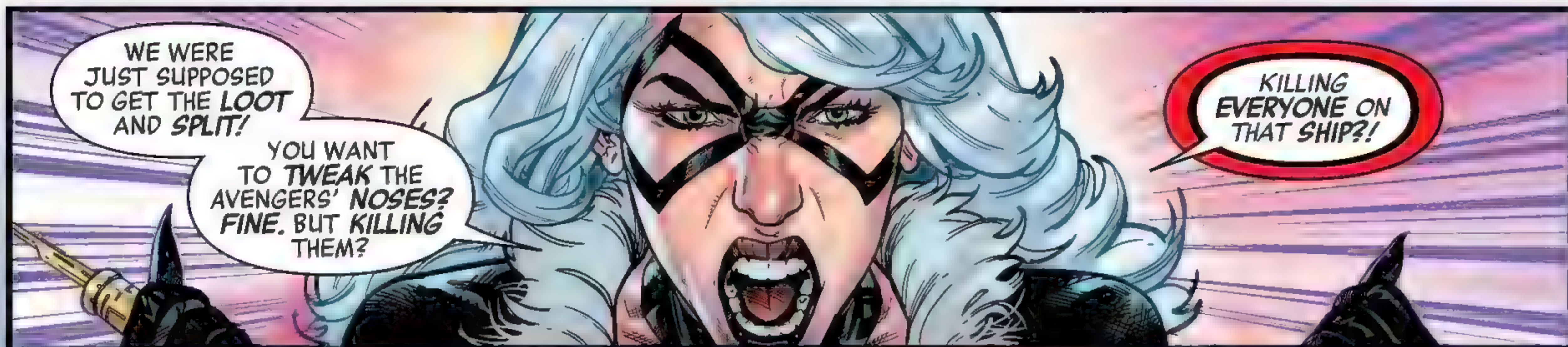
HOW--
HOW *MANY PEOPLE*
JUST DIED?
WHAT IN
HELL DID YOU
GET ME INTO,
BLACK CAT?

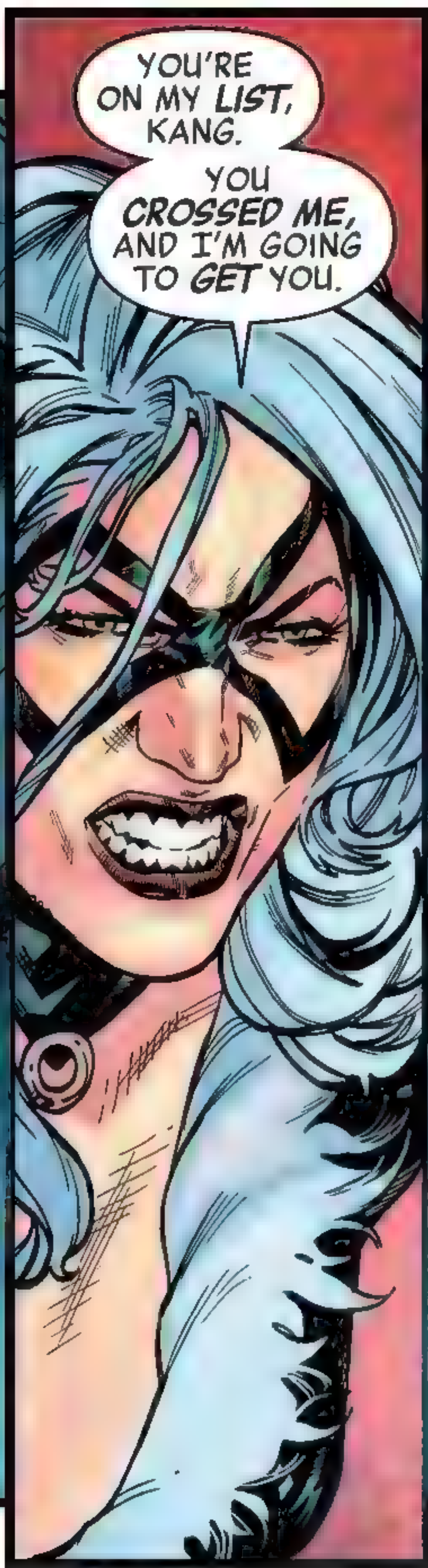


I DIDN'T
REALLY THINK
WE WOULD
BEAT THEM.



SO LITTLE
FAITH IN THE
CONQUEROR?
IT MAY
BE TO YOUR
ADVANTAGE TO
TREAT THIS ALL
AS A *GAME*.
BUT MY
GAMES ARE
FOR KEEPS.





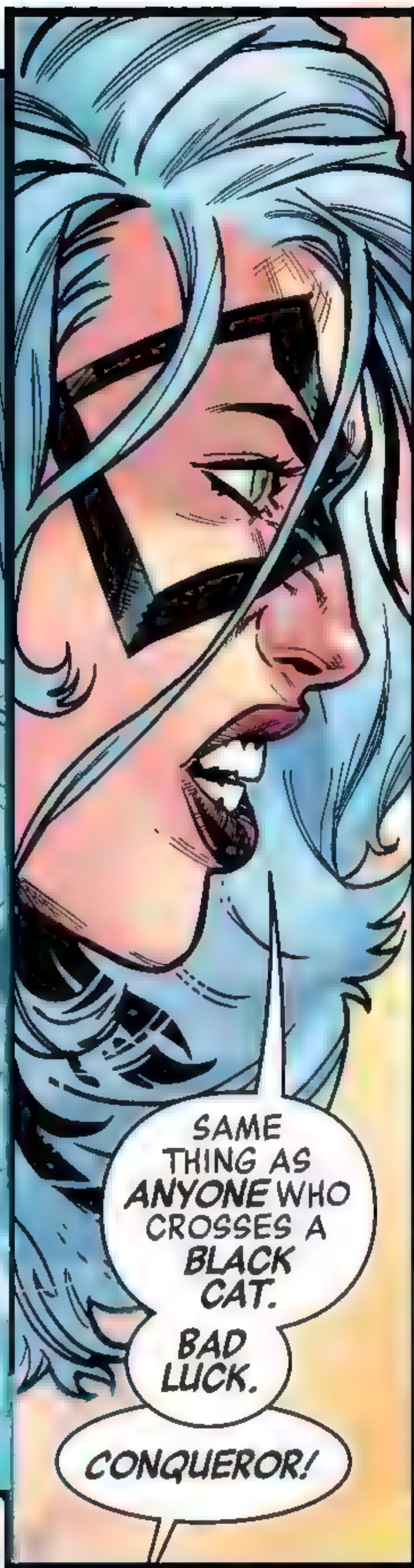
YOU'RE
ON MY LIST,
KANG.

YOU
CROSSED ME,
AND I'M GOING
TO GET YOU.



OH?

AND WHAT
HAVE I TO
FEAR FROM THE
BLACK CAT?



SAME
THING AS
ANYONE WHO
CROSSES A
BLACK
CAT.

BAD
LUCK.

CONQUEROR!



REPORTS
FROM THROUGHOUT
THE SHIP--

WE
ARE BEING...
WE ARE BEING
BOARDED?



"HUNDREDS OF TELEPORT SIGNATURES APPEARING THROUGHOUT THE SHIP!"

"THEY APPEAR TO BE... THE *GUESTS* OF THE SPECULATORIUM?!"



GO. GO NOW.

WHY ARE WE NOT UNDERWAY?!

CONQUEROR, WE CANNOT WARP AWAY!



OUR DRIVE COMPUTERS ARE **MALFUNCTIONING** SOMEHOW, CASCADING ERRORS ACROSS THE *SYSTEM*--



THE AVENGERS.



THAT'S RIGHT.

**THE
SPECULATORIUM.**
MERE MOMENTS AGO.

OVERCLOCKING.
STAND BY.

ACCELERATING MY
SUBJECTIVE TIME
EXPERIENCE--

VISION?

AVENGERS!

SOUND
OFF--WE NEED
A MIRACLE!

PEOPLE
ARE COUNTING
ON US!

--SUBJECTIVE
TIME DECELERATION
COMPLETE, SUBJECTIVE/
OBJECTIVE TIME
MATCHED.

AH. IT IS
GOOD TO
SEE YOU ALL
AGAIN.

I HAVE
BEEN RUNNING
SIMULATIONS
FOR WEEKS OF
SUBJECTIVE
TIME.

WE ARE
MOMENTS AWAY
FROM A CATASTROPHIC
GRAVIMETRIC EVENT
AND HAVE THOUSANDS
OF LIVES TO
SAVE.

SO PLEASE
FOLLOW MY
INSTRUCTIONS VERY
CAREFULLY.

"CAROL..."

...THE
GRAVIMETRIC
POWER OF THE
CATACLYSM IS
YOURS TO
COMMAND.

SHIELD US FROM
DESTRUCTION.

"ORORO..."

...THE COSMIC
STORM RAGING
AROUND US BELONGS
TO YOU.

GATHER THE
REMAINING
ATMOSPHERE
AND FEED THE
LUNGS OF THE
INNOCENT.

"WANDA..."

THERE IS
NOTHING YOU
CANNOT DO.

TAKE
OUR CHARGES
TO SAFETY...



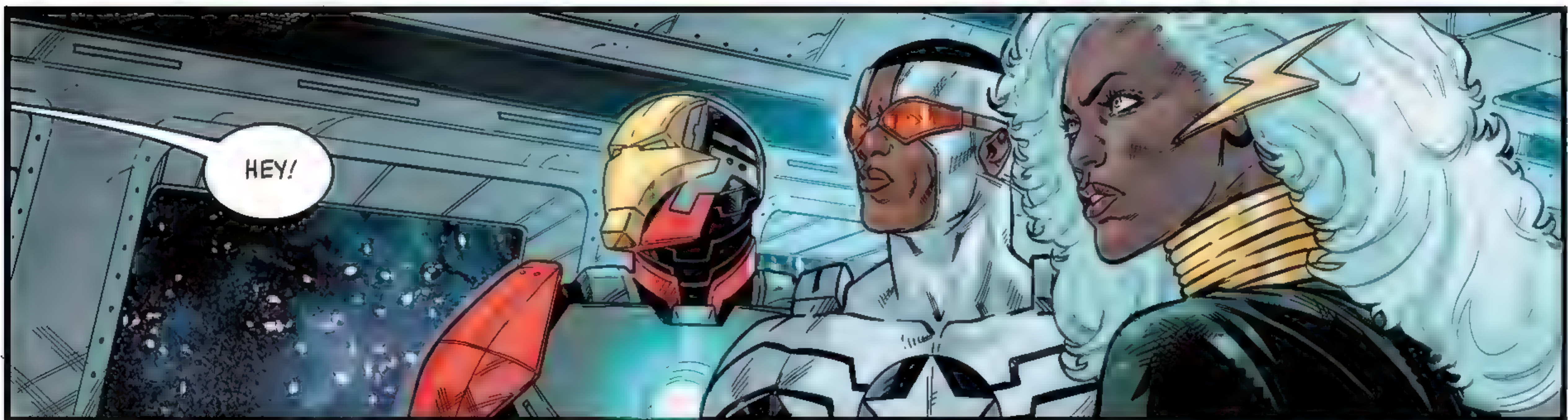
...AND TAKE
US TO OUR
ENEMY, BEFORE
HE CAN
ESCAPE.



YOU!
YOU SHOULD ALL BE DEAD, BUT YOU CONTINUE TO VEX ME!



THAT'S WHAT WE DO.



HEY!



I KNEW WE DIDN'T BEAT YOU.

HERE. TAKE IT.

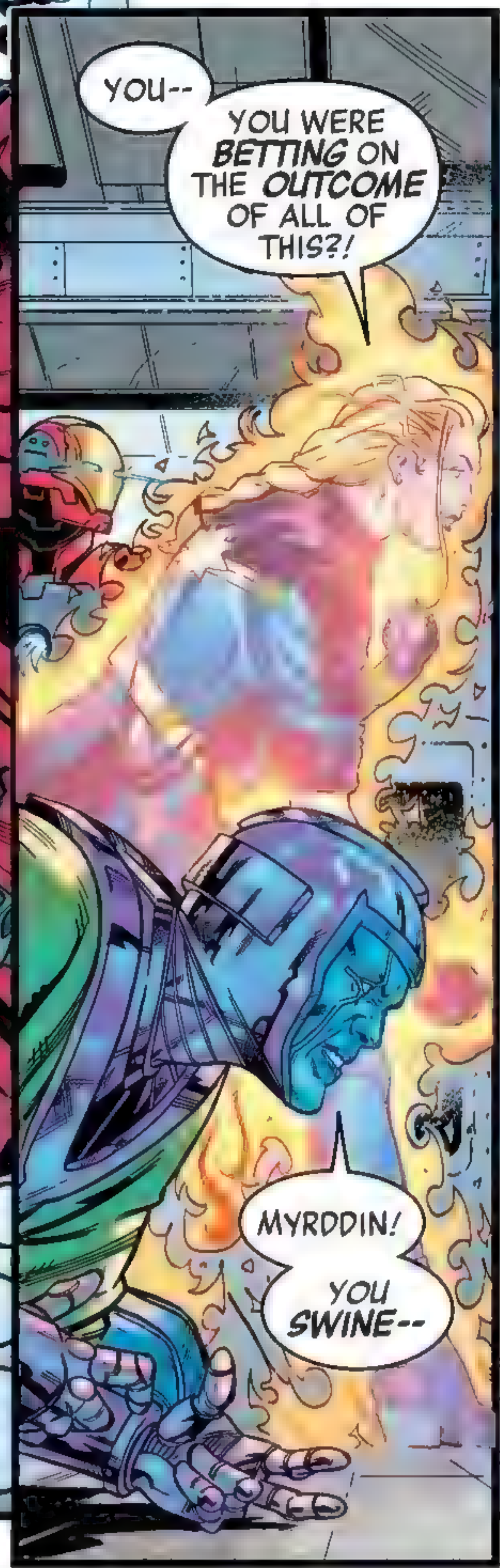


GOT IT.

AND THAT, I BELIEVE, ENDS OUR LITTLE GAME.



WHICH I
HAVE WON,
DESPITE THE
GREAT
COST.



YOU--
YOU WERE
BETTING ON
THE OUTCOME
OF ALL OF
THIS?!

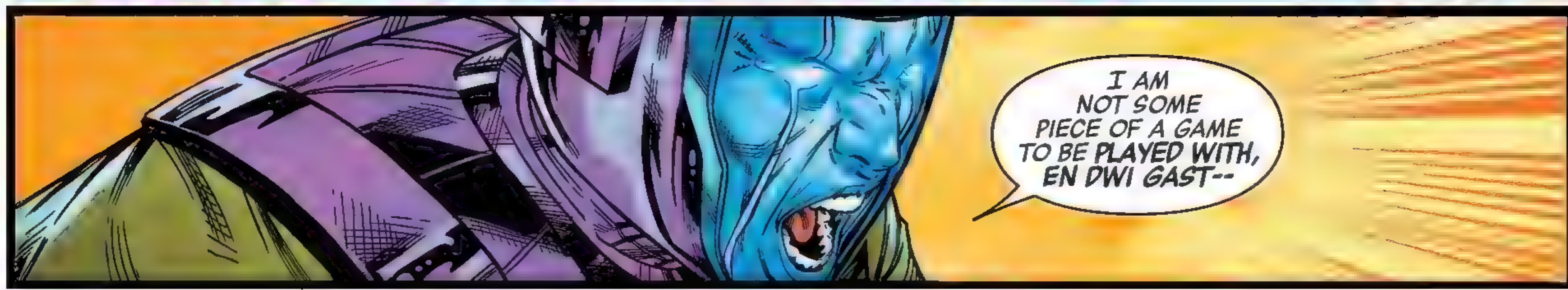
MYRDDIN!
you
SWINE--



I BET ON
EVERYTHING,
CAPTAIN MARVEL.
IT IS WHAT
I DO.



AND ALL
THAT REMAINS OF
THIS CONTEST IS TO
RETURN THE *PIECES* TO
THEIR RESPECTIVE
BOXES.



I AM
NOT SOME
PIECE OF A GAME
TO BE PLAYED WITH,
EN DWI GAST--



GOODBYE,
KANG.



NOW,
MYRDDIN.

IT REMAINS
FOR YOU TO
PAY ME WHAT I
HAVE WON.

OH, YOU
WILL HAVE WHAT
YOU WERE PROMISED,
GRANDMASTER.



HUMBLER,
MYRDDIN?

YOU HAVE
LOST.



I SUPPOSE
IT MAY APPEAR
THAT WAY.



"BUT THAT WOULD
ASSUME THAT I WAS
NOT PLAYING A **DIFFERENT**
GAME THIS WHOLE TIME."



NEW YORK CITY.
TWENTY YEARS IN THE PAST.

WHEW.

YOU SAID IT.
NEXT TIME YOU
WANT TO RECRUIT WALT
HARDY FOR A TIME-TRAVEL
SPACE-SHENANIGAN...

...DON'T.



WHAT, YOU
ALLERGIC TO ALL
THE CHAOS AND
DESTRUCTION?

IT'S...

IT'S BEEN
A PRIVILEGE,
WALT. TO SEE
YOU WORK.



YOU TOO,
BLACK
CAT.

KANG'S SHIP
CRAPPING OUT
LIKE THAT, SO THE
AVENGERS COULD
GET HIM.

THAT WAS
A BIT OF BAD
LUCK, WASN'T
IT?



I DON'T SUPPOSE THAT
HAD ANYTHING TO
DO WITH YOU,
DID IT?

I--

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT.

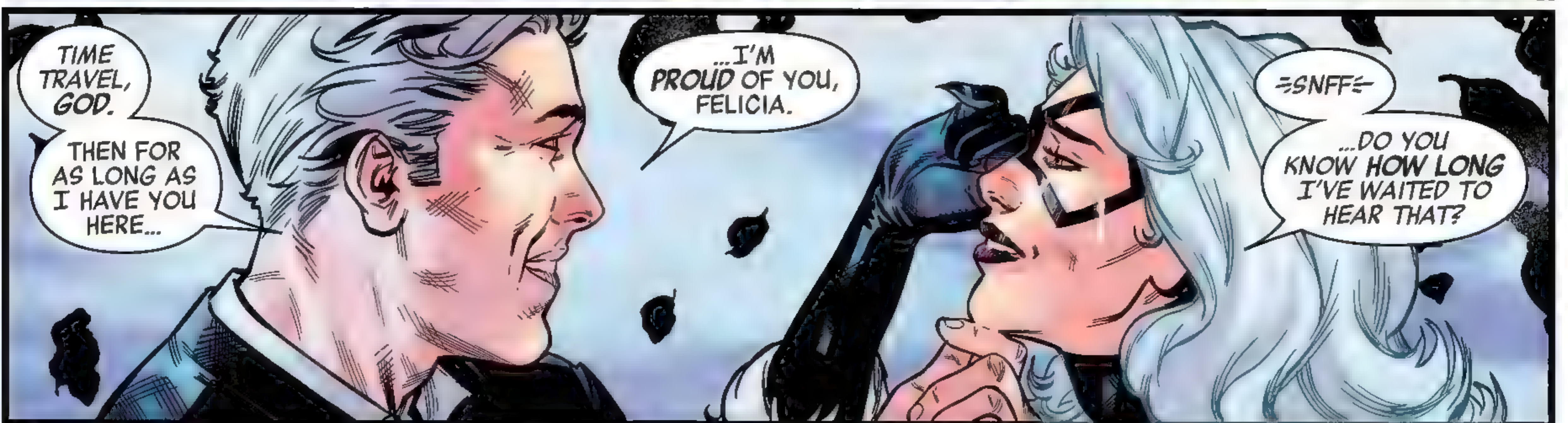
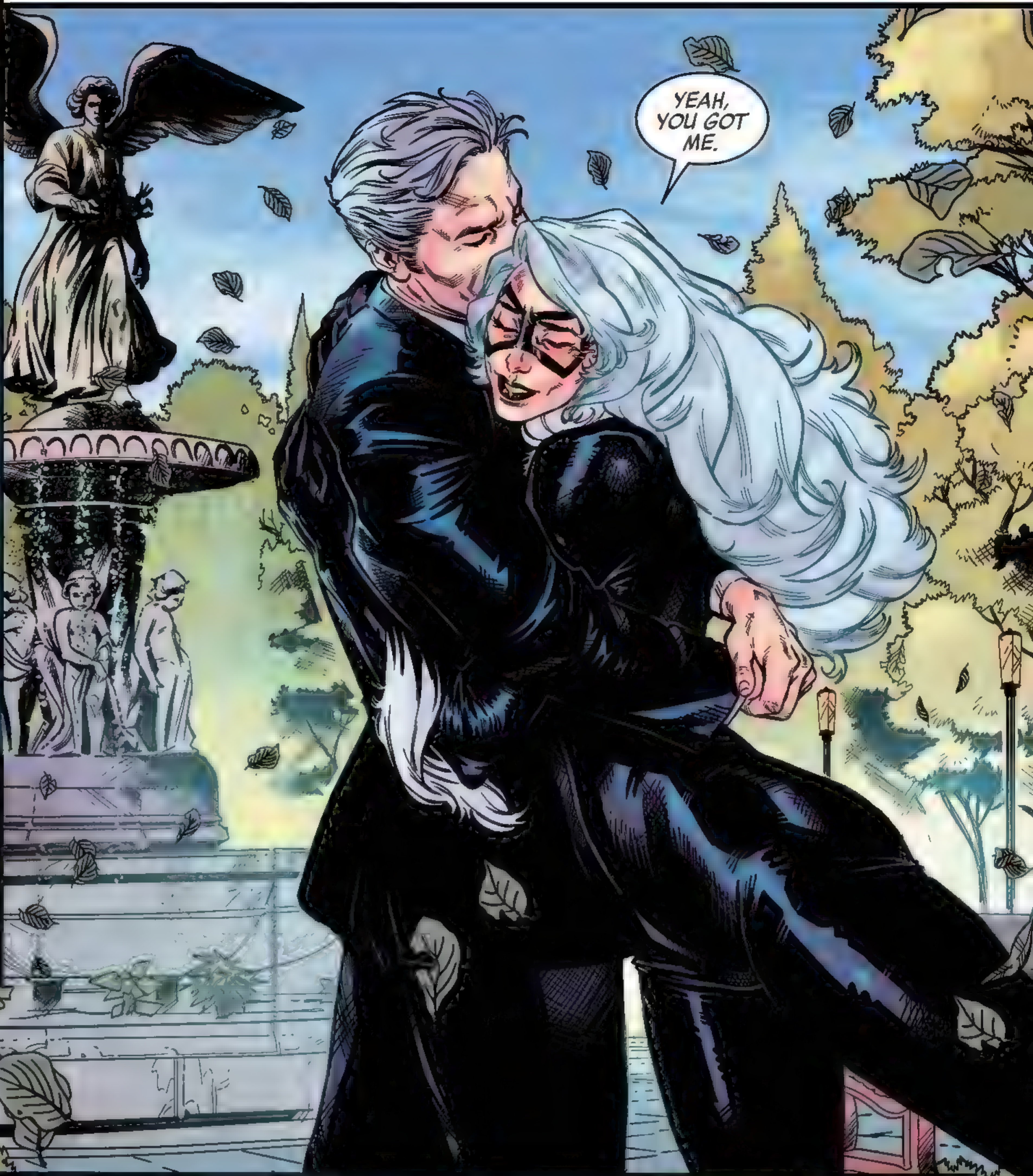


HEY.
KEEP YOUR
SECRETS.

LIKE WHO
YOU REALLY
ARE. LIKE WHY
YOU BROUGHT ME
IN ON THIS
CAPER.

YOU TAKE
AFTER LYDIA.
THANKFULLY.

BUT
YOU HAVE
MY HAIR.



THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY. NOW.

WELL.

WE'RE HOME,
AND WE'VE GOT
THE CODEX...

...SO I
GUESS WE
WON?



SAM! THANK
GOODNESS
YOU'RE BACK!

THERE'S AN
EMERGENCY!

WELL,
WHEN *ISN'T*
THERE...?

WHAT'S
UP, CITY?

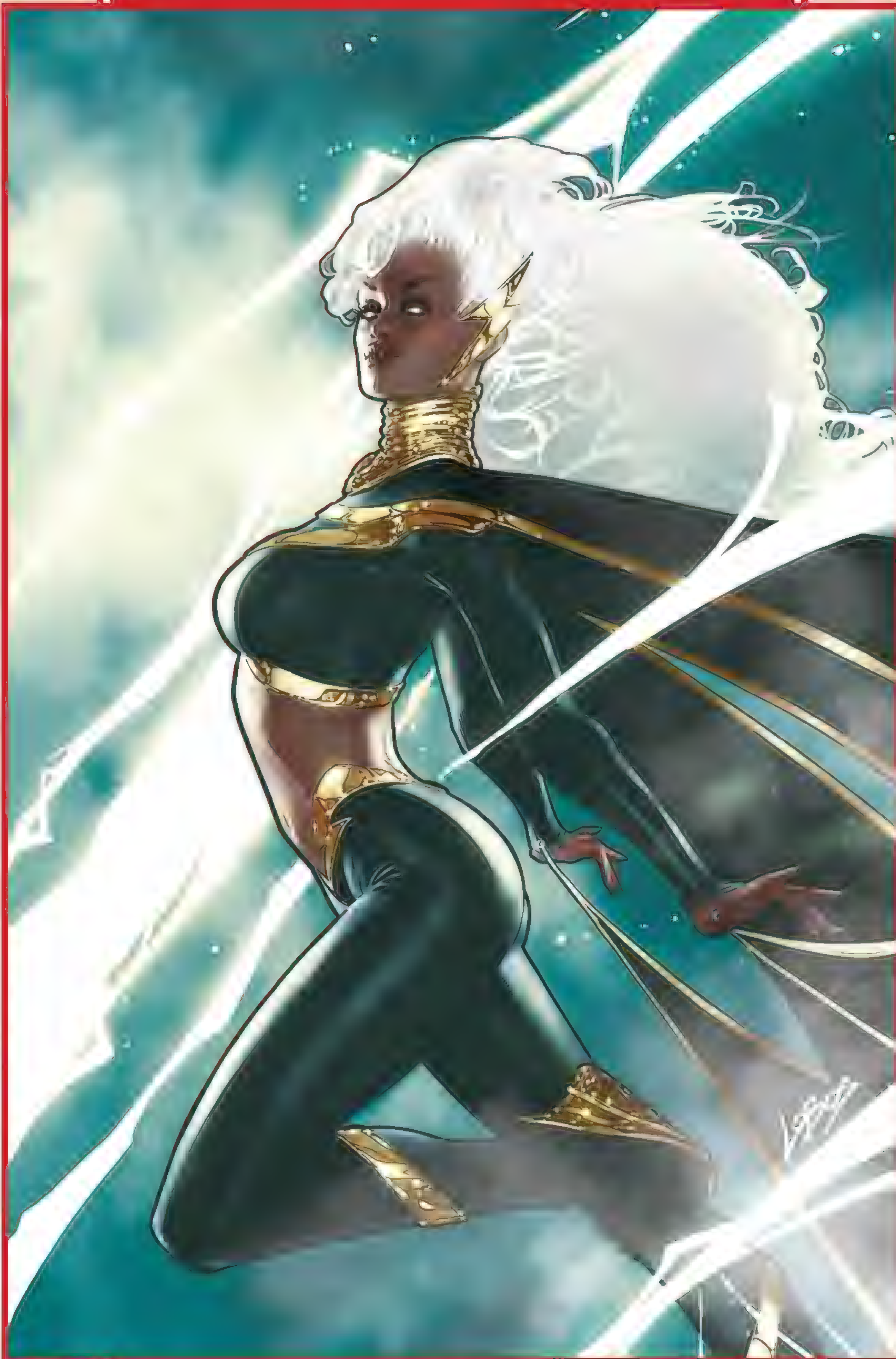


IT'S
DOOM.

HE'S RUNNING
THE WORLD.







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VARIANT
EDITION

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE--
TO MEET THE MOST FEARSOME
NEW MEMBER OF ALL!

YOU
WANTED
HER--YOU'VE
GOT
HER!

THE
STORM
COMETH!

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